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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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As many as 124 police officials across ranks facing action this year in city and 10 inspectors among suspended after allegations ranging from bribery, assault, dereliction of duty to collusion with drug peddlers

BEYOND THE FALL OF DUTY

Action is taken across all levels, say officials

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A grim figure serves as a reminder about the deep-rooted corruption with the force. Nearly 25 police personnel, including five inspectors, one PSI, three ASIs, two head constables and 14 constables in the city, have been suspended over the past two months following allegations of bribery, assault, dereliction of duty, and links to drug peddlers.

The suspensions come in the wake of internal inquiries and growing public outrage over police misconduct. Overall, a total of 124 police officials across different ranks have faced suspension this year so far.

According to Joint Commissioner (Administration) Kuldeep Kumar R Jain, the suspensions were ordered after multiple incidents surfaced where police personnel either failed to perform their duties diligently or were found involved in acts that violated departmental rules. These cases range from failure to respond promptly to complaints, mishandling of cases, misuse of authority, and behaviour unbecoming of police personnel.

The 124 police personnel include 10 inspectors, 16 sub-inspectors, 16 assistant sub-inspectors, 41 head constables, and 41 constables,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

More than 2,200 policemen receive first aid training in city (file photo)

“Even first-time violations cannot be overlooked, because leniency may set a precedent and encourage others to repeat similar misconduct believing that they too will be given another chance
— Kuldeep Kumar R Jain, Joint Commissioner (Administration)

TRASH IT ALL

One of the busiest spots in city, Gandhi Bazaar becomes dumping ground for medical waste

PAGE 4

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THINGS TO DO

01 Legacy of art

Virasat Art and Virasat Art Publication are presenting 'Hindustan Files: 1757–1950', a unique exhibition celebrating art, history, and heritage. The exhibition will showcase Company School paintings, works by eminent European artists, Kalighat patachitra, Kansaripara lithoprints, vintage books, letters, photographs, and rare documents. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road; When: Until Nov 23**

02 Musical tribute

Sursagar is celebrating their 43rd Varshikotsav with music performances. The first concert is by Ojas Adhiya, a top ranking percussionist, as a tribute to the Tabla maestro, Ustad Zakir Hussain. The second programme is a vocal recital by Pt Vinayak Torvi, renowned vocalist. **Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleshwaram; When: November 23, 5.30 pm**

03 Words for a greener world

Green Literature Festival, a vibrant platform dedicated to identifying, celebrating and promoting books, writing, conversations and various other cultural expressions on the environment, is back for its 5th edition. **Where: Century Club, Cubbon Park; When: November 29, 9.30 am**

04 Strike a chord

From heartfelt ballads to high-energy anthems, Sanjith Hegde will be performing live, taking the audience on a rollercoaster of music, visuals and emotion. **Where: Manpho Convention Centre, Nagavara; When: November 30, 6 pm**

05 Voices in harmony

The South Asian Symphony Orchestra returns to Bengaluru for an unforgettable evening built around one of humanity's most powerful musical statements—Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—with over 120 musicians on stage. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: November 29, 7 pm**

Student-led tech to boost emergency care

Bengaluru students work on new app to cut down on ambulance wait times and aid users in medical emergencies; app prototype earns global recognition

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New emergency response app uses real-time tracking, connects users to nearest available ambulance, provides AI-based first-aid guidance, and recommends most suitable hospitals to users

Ambulink is a new emergency response app developed by four students from Bengaluru, designed to tackle one of India's most pressing healthcare challenges — the long and often dangerous wait for an ambulance. Designed to cut response times, guide users with AI-based first aid, and direct patients to the right hospitals, the app shows how simple, thoughtful technology can make a real difference in saving lives.

The innovative idea has now won global recognition. The project earned the Global Grand Prize in the Junior Division at Technovation Girls 2025, a competition that saw participation from 33,000 girls across 117 countries, with more than 3,200 projects submitted. The winning team, Aadya Yeri, Anoushka Subramanyam, Mahi Khandelwal, and Maya Candade, all Grade 8 students from The International School Bangalore (TISB), were also the only team from Asia to reach the final round.

Ambulink uses real-time tracking, connects users to the nearest available ambulance, provides AI-based first-aid guidance, and recommends the most suitable hospitals. The goal is simple but powerful: to help save lives by getting medical help to people much sooner.

Ambulink is currently a working prototype. "This is a prototype currently. It is not in production yet. The goal of the competition is to show a working prototype. Despite this, the app has already been designed with clear goals for future use. Ideally our app should connect you to the nearest ambulance between 10–15 minutes. Currently, the average wait time is 25–40 minutes," explained the team.

The app works by letting a patient enter their pickup and drop-off locations, after which the nearest ambulance driver can accept the request. This ensures quick ambulance dispatch, along with live tracking, AI-based first-aid tips, and smart hospital recommendations.

To enable real-time coordination, Ambulink uses Google Maps API for tracking and integrates both phone and chat features for communication. The first-aid assistance is powered by AI. "For AI assistance we use ChatGPT 4.0 prompts to provide guidance. This has been verified by the doctors. We plan to tune the model more when we actually work on the production app," said Kavyashree Yeri, the team's mentor.

Yeri said the win is only the beginning. "The next step is to pilot the app in Bengaluru and work with healthcare providers and emergency services to make it functional and incorporate it into people's lives," she said.

Panel urges ASHA workers' support for urban welfare

The Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has urged the Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare to appoint Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers for the welfare of women and children in urban areas in the state as they play a key role in the health of pregnant women, prenatal mothers and children. In a recent letter, KSCPCR Chairman Sashidhar Kosambe demanded measures for the appointment of ASHA workers in cities as they play a key role in facilitating government welfare schemes to people.

Move can significantly improve healthcare outcomes in urban communities, says child rights activist

Speaking with BM, KSCPCR Chairman Sashidhar Kosambe said that families in Bengaluru and other cities in the state have been facing problems in accessing healthcare facilities. "Appointing ASHA workers will be a great help for women and children from poor families," he said, adding that the government must at least appoint one ASHA worker for each ward in Bengaluru. Dr Thippeswamy KT, a KSCPCR member, said ASHA workers play an important role in helping women and children from economically weaker sections. "I want the government to appoint ASHA workers in cities on par with rural areas," he said.

Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, said the KSCPCR has recommended appointing ASHA workers in urban areas, which is a commendable step. He opined that implementing this recommendation can significantly improve healthcare outcomes in urban communities while bridging service gaps to ensure vulnerable populations receive timely medical attention and guidance. **— BMB**

National Centre for Excellence hosts annual celebration

The National Centre for Excellence of Vijay Kiran Group of Institutions held its annual celebration at Indiranagar School. Bollywood and international music director Earl Edgar attended as the chief guest for the event. Students performed Bharatanatyam, and the principal presented the annual report under the theme "Two Worlds on One Stage," followed by recognition of students who completed the academic year. The programme included a play on Shakespeare's visit to India, discussions on values of Kuvempu, Rabindranath Tagore, Mirabai, and Jyotirao Phule, and dance performances. **— BMB**

Recruitment exams for 973 posts from December 20

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has released the schedule for the written tests to fill 973 vacancies notified last month across various departments and corporations. Exams for candidates claiming Hyderabad-Karnataka (HK) quota will be held on December 20, 21, and January 24 and February 22. These tests cover 391 posts. For candidates not opting for the HK reservation, exams will be conducted on January 10, 11, 12 and 25, covering a total of 582 posts. This information was shared by KEA Executive Director H Prasanna in an official release.

The recruitment exams will be held for posts across technical education, agricultural marketing, BDA, water supply and sewerage boards, KSDL, KKRRTC, RGUHS, KSSIDC, school education and several other departments and corporations. Both HK and non-HK exams will include negative marking, with one-fourth of a mark deducted for every wrong answer. **— BMB**

Pets, cycling & skating banned in Lalbagh

To protect and preserve Lalbagh, the state government has issued new regulations that completely ban bringing pets, cycling and skating inside the garden. Anyone violating these rules will face a fine of Rs 500, according to the Horticulture Department. Officials claimed that the restrictions aim to safeguard walkers, protect the park's rich plant collection and gene bank, and maintain the tranquillity of the space. Walking is allowed only between 5.30 am and 9 am, and again from 4.30 pm to 7 pm. Unlike Cubbon Park, where cycling was once permitted, it is now fully banned in Lalbagh.

Outsiders are not allowed to plant saplings inside the garden; however, environmental and awareness programmes may be conducted with prior permission from the department. The list of prohibited activities includes using loud sound-producing items, displaying banners or hoardings, smoking,

drinking alcohol or using intoxicants, indecent behaviour, group yoga, climbing trees, playing with ropes, plucking fruits or flowers, feeding birds or fish, bringing pets, playing on lawns, bringing outside food, toys or balloons, as well as walkathons, marathons, cycling events, and carrying explosives, weapons or any government-banned items.

Activities allowed with approval include flower shows, fairs, farmers' technical events, government awareness programmes, film and video shoots, pre- and post-wedding photoshoots, modelling, and cultural events. Photography of plants, wildlife and landscapes is permitted with department approval, and visitors are allowed to take still photographs. **— BMB**

10 days after sexual assault complaint, radiologist arrested

The Anekal Police on Wednesday arrested a radiologist accused of sexually assaulting a woman during a medical scan, ten days after the complaint was filed.

The accused, identified as Jayakumar, was employed at Plasma Medinostics Scanning Centre in Anekal. The case pertains to an incident that occurred earlier this month, when the victim visited the centre with her husband for a scan related to severe stomach pain.

According to police, during the procedure, Jayakumar allegedly molested the woman by touching her inappropriately, including her private parts. When she objected, he reportedly used abusive language and threatened to kill her if she revealed the incident. Her husband was waiting outside the room at the time.

The woman managed to record portions of the assault on her mobile phone and filed a complaint at the Anekal Police Station soon after. However, despite the FIR being registered, police initially let the accused off with only a notice, which triggered public anger.

Days later, members of the Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (Karave) led by state vice-president Lokesh Gowda, staged a protest outside the Anekal Police Station, accusing the police of inaction and questioning why the accused had not been arrested even after ten days. Protesters warned that they would call for an Anekal town bandh if the delay continued. —BMB

13 men held after viral clash near Vidhana Soudha

The Vidhana Soudha Police on Friday arrested 11 Nepali nationals and detained two minors in connection with a clash that took place last Sunday in front of Vidhana Soudha and the High Court.

According to police, the group had been moving across the city earlier in the day, visiting JP Nagar, HSR Layout, Cubbon Park and other locations, before assembling near a metro station where the dispute erupted. The fight, police say, was triggered by a mix of issues including a previous quarrel involving a woman, a dispute over a stolen phone for which one group had filed a complaint, and simmering rivalry between two groups who were reportedly competing with each other.

What began as a heated exchange quickly turned into a physical fight, prompting police to intervene and resort to a lathi-charge to disperse the groups. While the participants fled soon, videos of the incident surfaced on social media days later and drew criticism over security lapses, a formal case was registered the next day.

Investigation has shown that the group had been shooting reels at city landmarks and sharing the videos within Nepali online circles, where they reportedly received high viewership. According to DCP (Central), more individuals are suspected to be involved, and efforts are underway to trace and identify them. Further interrogation and background verification of the detained individuals are in progress. —BMB

Chocolate heist worth ₹17.98 lakh

The driver working with a private transport company allegedly fled with chocolate boxes worth nearly ₹18 lakh after abandoning his employer's vehicle near Islampur village on the Nelamangala to Doddaballapur route. The incident came to light after the manager of Johnson Enterprises filed a complaint at 1 pm on Wednesday.

According to the complainant, who works as a manager with Johnson Enterprises Transport Company, the accused, Ranjeet MR, who hails from Tumakuru, had worked with the firm for a year before quitting three months ago citing health issues. On November 16, he contacted the manager claiming that his health had improved and requested to rejoin. Ranjeet was reinstated on November 17 and assigned to drive the company's SUV. That night, he loaded 465 chocolate boxes from Mondelez Chocolate Company in Jadigenahalli, Hoskote, meant for delivery to Hassan.

However, on November 18, the vehicle failed to reach the designated delivery point Agency. Repeated attempts to contact Ranjeet failed. The manager then checked the vehicle's GPS location and found it parked near Islampur village.

On the morning of November 19, the company discovered that 264 of the 465 boxes, valued at ₹17,98,391, were missing. The manager alerted the company owner and approached the police. Nelamangala Police have registered a case under Section 306 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against Ranjeet, who is absconding. —BMB

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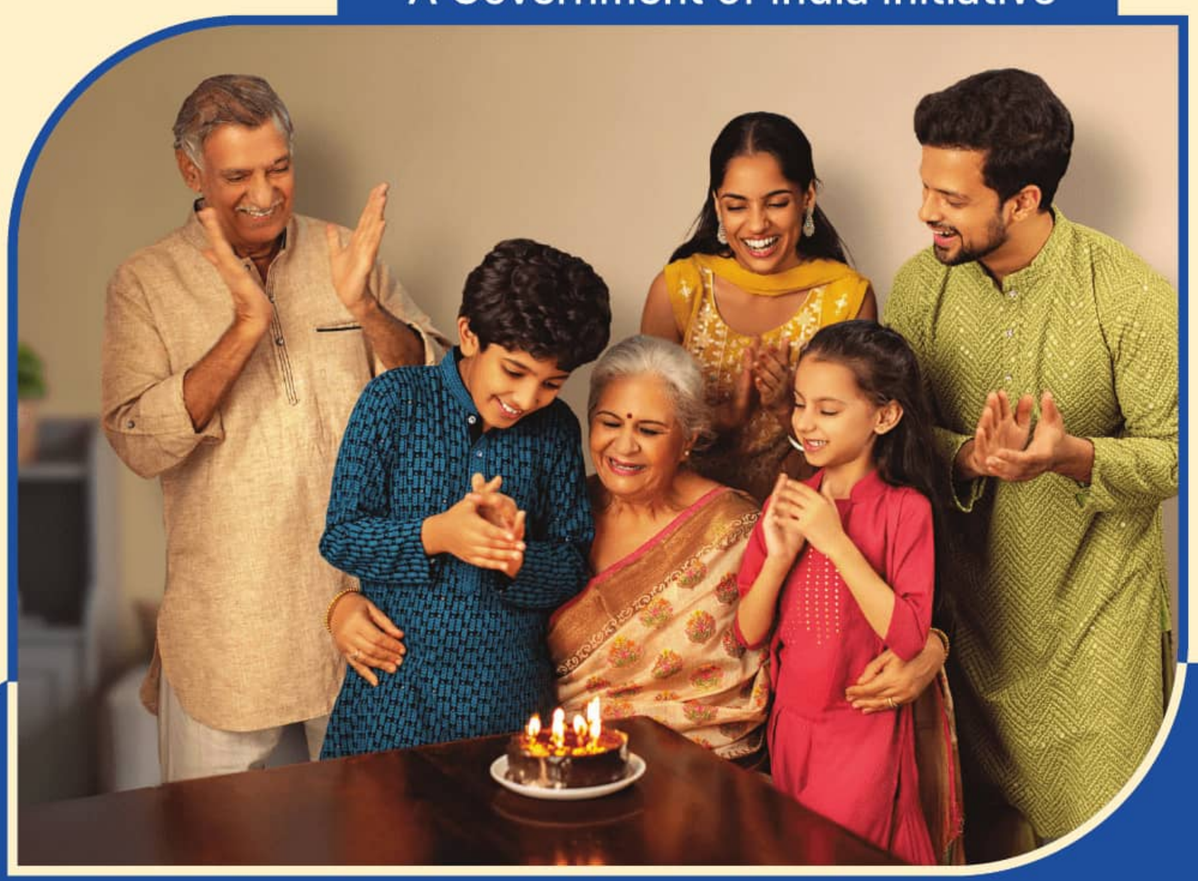

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Medical waste dumping turns Gandhi Bazaar hazardous zone

With medical waste dumped openly and pathways obstructed, Gandhi Bazaar locals slam officials for inaction that endangers health and pedestrian safety

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Gandhi Bazaar, one of the busiest roads in the city, has increasingly turned into a dumping ground for medical waste, leaving residents and social activists deeply worried. They say that despite raising repeated complaints, the Bengaluru South City Corporation authorities have failed to address the problem, exposing pedestrians and residents to potential health risks.

The issue has been lingering for a long time, with medical waste and food waste regularly thrown on the footpath, creating a foul smell and highly unhygienic surroundings. Matters worsen whenever it rains, as the waste gets washed into the roadside drain, spreading contamination further and making the stretch unpleasant to walk through.

Residents point out that the situation has been aggravated by the construction of a concrete wall on the footpath, which has completely blocked the pedestrian pathway. The wall, they allege, was built without any permission or clearance, forcing pedestrians to step onto the main road and navigate heavy traffic, putting their safety at risk every day.

"We have complained to the BSCC authorities to keep the footpath clean by restraining a few irresponsible citizens who dump waste on it, but our pleas have gone unheard. I want the authorities to fix this problem immediately, especially since crores have been spent on developing Gandhi Bazaar. I also want BSCC marshals to keep a strict vigil on those dumping medical waste," said B Sudarshan, a resident.

(Left) Medical waste is being dumped in Gandhi Bazaar; (Right) Garbage on Gandhi Bazar

"I was told that some people dumped medical waste on the footpath to facilitate pourakarmikas pick it up in the morning. I will ask a senior health officer – Dr Komala Harish

Basavanagudi Heritage Residents' Welfare Association Secretary Guruprasad RK criticised the BSCC for failing to maintain cleanliness in the area. He said the footpath has virtually become a dumping yard for all kinds of waste. "With the authorities turning a blind eye, pedestrians find it extremely difficult to walk here. Medical waste is hazardous and can cause serious infections and diseases. I have complained to the health officer and others, but no action has been taken," he said.

Meanwhile, Medical Officer of Health (Chickpet) Dr Komala Harish said she has received a complaint regarding the dumping of medical waste. "I was informed that some people placed medical waste on the footpath so pourakarmikas could pick it up in the morning. I will ask a senior health officer, who is currently on leave, to visit the spot on Monday and take necessary measures. I will also instruct him to issue notices to those responsible," she said. Residents hope timely intervention will finally bring lasting and much-needed relief to the affected area.

Long-awaited CDP Road finally brings commuter relief

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After years of struggling with a muddy, waterlogged and unsafe stretch, residents of Carmelaram and Chikkabellandur finally have some relief. A major portion of the long-pending 100-ft CDP road has been completed, bringing smoother and safer travel to thousands of daily commuters who had been waiting for this upgrade for over two years.

Members of the Carmelaram Unite Citizens Forum said the moment felt long overdue. "Today is a proud moment for all of us. Driving on the newly completed 100-ft CDP road feels like a long-awaited dream finally coming true. What was once a muddy, unsafe, waterlogged stretch is now smooth, safe, and truly worthy of our community," they said.

The group recalled how they spent two and a half years following up with officials through meetings, letters and even a postcard campaign where children described the difficulties they faced. Media reports, including Bangalore Mirror's neighbourhood-monitor story, highlighted the poor condition of the road, delays in land acquisition and the bottleneck caused by the pending Rail Over Bridge (RoB).

With RoB pillars now rising and the newly asphalted stretch opening for commuters, residents say the progress is visible. They added that their next demands include completing the RoB, finishing the remaining CDP stretches with proper quality and ensuring safety and routine maintenance.

Commuter relief

Residents who use the road daily say the improvement is immediate. Jose George, a resident of Chikkabellandur who commutes to Kadubeesanahalli, said, "I stay in Chikkabellandur. I commute to Kadubeesanahalli. We have been commuting on inexistent road for over two years. With the new road and from AET junction to Kadubeesanahalli, I am able to cover the distance smoothly. While traffic problem still exists, talking strictly about the new road, it reduces my travel time by 15 minutes early morning at 7. Earlier we used the same road but it was hugely bumpy."

Newly completed CDP stretch offers immediate relief to commuters

Members of the Mahadevapura Task Force said they were relieved to see pending issues finally being resolved. They said the Chikkabellandur CDP road work began in 2022–23, but progress was delayed due to land acquisition hurdles. One landowner, in particular, wanted to receive TDR before allowing road work.

According to the task force, former Mahadevapura MLA Aravind Limbavali personally met the landowner, who agreed to allow the land to be used for public access. The land has reportedly been available for more than two years without any payment or TDR compensation. A recent Form 3 notification for land acquisition has now been published. Officials are expected to complete formalities and issue the TDR in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, the landowner has once again allowed the contractor to prepare the surface and begin asphalting.

The BECC Projects team has completed surface preparations and laid 300 metres of the layer along with the first layer of asphalt.

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Pothole collapse

Nandidurga Road

The month-old pothole on Nandidurga Road in Jayamahal Extension was finally filled after a Bangalore Mirror report—but the repair has already disintegrated into a 3–4 sq ft crater.

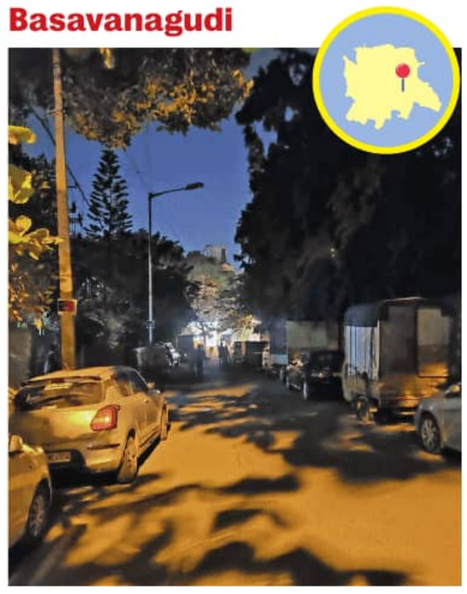
Shoddy repairs

Richmond Town

Tiles along the Richmond Town club stretch have caved in barely two months after repairs, highlighting glaring GBA negligence, poor-quality materials, and the lack of any real quality checks that continue to endanger pedestrians and schoolchildren.

Streetlight failure

Basavanagudi



Most streetlights near an office on Bull Temple Road in Basavanagudi have stopped working, creating unsafe conditions for pedestrians, especially women and children.

Petition against Bengaluru stampede inquiry quashed

The Karnataka High Court on Friday rejected a petition filed by event organiser M/s DNA Entertainment Network Private Limited, which had sought to annul the judicial inquiry report into the Bengaluru stampede that occurred in May.

The matter was heard by a division bench comprising Justice DK Singh and Justice Tara Vitasta Ganju. The detailed judgment is awaited.

Earlier, on June 5, the state government had issued an order constituting a Commission of Inquiry headed by retired judge John Michael Cunha, directing the panel to complete its investigation within one month.

In court, DNA Entertainment argued that the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, grants parties the right to cross-examine witnesses. The company contended that despite requesting an opportunity to question witnesses whose statements might affect its interests, no such chance was given, rendering the inquiry unfair and violative of statutory requirements and natural justice.

The firm further submitted that it was not provided with copies of witness depositions or documents relied upon in the proceedings, despite repeated requests. According to the petitioner, access to these materials was essential to challenge incorrect recordings, conduct cross-examinations, and make effective submissions. On this basis, the company sought to have the report struck down.

DNA also alleged that the Commission appeared to operate with a preconceived view, functioning more like a fault-finding body than one tasked with impartial fact-finding. As a result, it argued, the final report stood compromised.

Countering the allegations, Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty maintained that the petitioner's claims were unfounded. He assured the bench that if the government decided to take any action based on the report, the company would be given prior notice. **–BMB**

IN HIGH COURT

HD Revanna gets partial relief in harassment case

The Karnataka High Court has overturned the charge of outraging a woman's modesty under Section 354 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) filed against Janata Dal (S) leader HD Revanna by his former domestic worker. However, the court has upheld the applicability of Section 354A, which deals with sexual harassment, and directed the trial court to assess whether this charge can still be pursued despite the lapse of the statutory limitation period under Section 468 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

Justice MI Arun, while delivering the order, observed that the contents of the complaint align with the ingredients of Section 354A rather than Section 354.

Revanna had moved the High Court seeking to quash the FIR, but during the pendency of his plea, the investigation concluded, and a chargesheet was filed, following which the trial court took cognizance of the offences.

Relying on the Supreme Court's ruling in Anand Kumar Mohatta & Another vs State (NCT of Delhi), Department of Home & Another (2019), the High Court clarified that a criminal petition challenging the FIR remains maintainable even if the police file a chargesheet later.

Since the charges against Revanna stem solely from the complainant's account and not from any independent witnesses, Justice Arun held that he should face charges strictly in accordance with the version presented in the complaint. Based on that version, the court ruled that only Section 354A of the IPC is attracted.

Given that offences under Section 354A carry a maximum sentence of three years—and are therefore subject to the limitation period under Section 468 CrPC—the High Court remanded the matter to the trial court. The trial court has been instructed to determine whether the delay in filing the complaint should be condoned and to proceed accordingly on the question of the Section 354A charge. **–BMB**

Fatal accident highlights B'luru's crumbling roads

Woman dies after vehicle skids because of poor road condition; incident brings out citizens' longstanding frustration over damaged roads endangering lives of commuters

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A 46-year-old woman was killed on Thursday evening after the two-wheeler she was riding pillion skidded over a badly damaged section of Sir M Visvesvaraya Road, the service road parallel to Hulimavu Main Road near Bengaluru Drug House. The bike toppled on the uneven surface, and a tipper lorry approaching from behind ran over her. The incident has sparked fresh outrage over the worsening condition of Bengaluru's internal roads.

Police said the victim, Shantamma, was returning from work with her colleague Nizam around 4.30 pm when the vehicle lost control after hitting a deep pothole. The impact threw her onto the carriageway, and the tipper, unable to brake in time on the loose gravel, fatally crushed her. She died instantly.

Investigators confirmed that the accident resulted from a combination of severely damaged road conditions and the tipper driver's error, noting that the stretch has long been unsafe due to crater-like potholes and constant movement of heavy construction vehicles. The driver has been detained, and a case of death by negligence has been registered.

Shantamma, a native of Gokak in Belgaum district, lived with her son in Kammanahalli and worked as a housekeeper. Her death has intensified the long-standing frustration of residents who have repeatedly warned authorities about the deteriorating state of this corridor.

Across Bengaluru, poor road maintenance has been cited in numerous serious accidents, raising concerns over worrying pattern

Investigators say accident caused by combination of severely damaged road conditions and tipper driver's error, noting that stretch has been unsafe due to large potholes and constant movement of heavy vehicles

Locals say the stretch from Krishna Kuteera in Hulimavu to the petrol pump at Vijaya Bank Layout has become increasingly dangerous, with multiple potholes, uneven patches, and poor lighting. "Despite frequent complaints, civic agencies have relied on temporary patchwork that wears off quickly, leaving us at constant risk," a resident said, adding how heavy vehicles plying the road only worsen the surface damage.

The fatality adds to a worrying pattern. Across Bengaluru, poor road maintenance has been cited in numerous serious and fatal accidents this year. Potholes, eroded layers of asphalt, and unscientific patchwork have turned several stretches into black spots. Although the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) claims it is addressing the issue and filling thousands of potholes, experts say the city continues to rely on short-term fixes rather than durable, planned resurfacing.

In the last ten months alone, residents and traffic police have flagged multiple danger zones where pothole-related crashes persist, underscoring a systemic lack of accountability. Without decisive intervention, resurfacing, signage, lighting, and regulation of heavy vehicle movement, residents fear that this stretch, and many others like it, will continue to claim lives.

Towing to be back soon?

To curb random roadside parking and ensure smooth flow of traffic—especially in high-density zones and spots where stalled vehicles choke movement—the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has decided to reintroduce towing operations across the city.

An official said, "To get things moving fast, the GBA will hand over 10 new towing vehicles—two each from the five city municipal bodies—to the Traffic Police. GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to expedite the procurement."

During a coordination meeting with traffic officials, GBA instructed all municipal bodies to mark specific towing points and streamline operations. The municipalities will also be responsible for supporting towing vehicles and ensuring ground-level readiness. **–BMB**

Metro-airport link planned via skywalk

BMRCL has drawn up plans to construct an elevated pedestrian walkway connecting Bengaluru International Airport's Terminal 1 directly to the upcoming metro station on the Blue Line. The walkway will be a moving walk (travellator) stretching 190 metres in length and 10 metres in width, covering about 1,900 square metres. Officials say construction will be planned so that metro station operations are not affected. The airport currently handles over 42 million passengers annually and aims to reach more than 65 million in the next five years.

The Blue Line is being built in two phases: Phase 1 from Silk Board to KR Puram with 13 stations, and Phase 2 from KR Puram to the airport with 17 elevated stations, spanning a total of 58.19 km. About 60 per cent of the work on this corridor is complete. SNC, Afcons and NCC are executing different sections, with NCC handling three stages and the others one stage each. Pillar and pillar-cap work in several segments have crossed 95 to 99 per cent completion, while girder installation is also nearing completion.

Construction of the Blue Line began in September 2021, with an initial target of completion in 2024. Owing to delays, BMRCL now plans to start train services in three phases between September 2026 and December 2027. NCC is executing a 37-km stretch in three stages from Benniganahalli to Kempegowda Airport, with pillar and girder installation progressing steadily and major civil works nearing significant completion. **–BMB**

Beyond apartments & plots, farmlands emerge as new investment magnet

As urban property prices soar and apartment investments stagnate, a new trend is taking root — managed farmlands with farmhouses are fast becoming the preferred investment choice for Bengalureans. Driven by the desire for greener escapes, steady returns, and lifestyle upgrades, demand for such farmland properties around Bengaluru and Mysuru has surged sharply.

Weekend home

Tired of city congestion, many Bengalureans are turning to managed farmlands on the outskirts, transforming them into weekend retreats. Equipped with resort-style amenities and surrounded by greenery, these farmhouses offer both relaxation and income. Buyers cultivate sandalwood, fruits, and vegetables on fertile land, blending leisure with profit. Developers are tapping into this shift by offering farm plots with built-in cottages and maintenance services.

Doubling in value

Real estate experts say the prices of managed farmlands with built farmhouses have nearly doubled in just a few years. Locations along Mysuru–Bengaluru Road, in particular, have become hotspots due to upcoming infrastructure projects, including the new Peripheral Ring Road around Mysuru, which will bring these areas within 15 minutes of the city.

Sandalwood craze

A major attraction for investors is the opportunity to grow sandalwood under secure, developer-managed conditions. Once considered risky due to theft and regulations, sandalwood cultivation is now safer thanks to new police guidelines protecting trees on private land. Developers such as Sharanya Farms handle complete cultivation and security, making the investment virtually hassle-free. "Sandalwood farming has become profitable and sustainable, with proper protection and management," says a developer.

Resort-style living

Some managed farmlands now include luxury cottages, swimming pools, and clubhouses, offering the best of both worlds — city comforts and rural calm. For those uninterested in building homes, developers offer sandalwood plantation-only models that promise steady long-term returns.

Infra pus

With infrastructure expanding and urban boundaries widening, farmlands along the Mysuru–Bengaluru stretch are viewed as prime real estate. **–Prakash VL**

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New IT city proposal to transform Bidadi

A major economic push is on the horizon for South Bengaluru as plans for a brand-new IT city in Bidadi, along the Mysuru Road growth corridor, take shape. Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has confirmed that several global companies have shown strong interest in investing billions of dollars in Bengaluru, with Bidadi emerging as a key location for large-scale development. Speaking to the media near his residence in Sadashivanagar, he noted that top leaders and business heads from different countries meet him every day, expressing eagerness to start new ventures in the region. The upcoming Bengaluru Tech Summit, hosting representatives from 60 countries, leaders from all Indian states, and over 1,500 major companies, is expected to further accelerate industrial expansion and employment creation.

According to the Deputy CM, Karnataka is committed to building an investor-friendly environment in which innovation, technology, talent, and start-ups can thrive. He emphasized that with the right encouragement, local talent and cutting-edge ideas can take the State towards a new direction of global competitiveness. The government is consistently communicating to the younger workforce that global-scale thinking and innovation will define the next era, and is positioning itself as a strong partner for start-ups and technology companies seeking to scale. Offering the best opportunities to those who invest in Karnataka, he said, is a core responsibility of the administration.

Bidadi is emerging as a key location for large-scale development

Skilled workforce

Karnataka already has an exceptional talent base, with 2.5 million IT professionals contributing to Bengaluru's reputation as India's technology powerhouse. Minister Priyank Kharge and industry facilitator Sharath Bachegowda are actively involved in building this vision, with teams working to strengthen tech infrastructure and industry policy. The Deputy CM highlighted that Bengaluru's weather, talent pool, and innovation culture remain unmatched globally. Over the next three days of the Tech Summit, discussions will focus on future technologies, global partnerships, and new investment pathways.

Infrastructure upgrades

Shivakumar also noted that companies are appreciative of the government's road restoration and development work across Bengaluru. While criticism is welcome, he stressed that the priority remains public service and improving the city's infrastructure for long-term growth. Better roads, smoother connectivity, and enhanced civic amenities have already begun to create positive sentiment among investors evaluating new projects around the Mysuru Road and Bidadi belt.

South Bengaluru & Mysuru Road realty

The proposed IT city in Bidadi is expected to significantly elevate the real estate and commercial landscape of South Bengaluru, particularly the fast-developing stretches along Mysuru Road, Kengeri, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, and the emerging Bidadi-Ramanagara belt. With large-scale tech investments, job creation, and improved connectivity, the region is poised to transform into a high-value residential and business hub. This development could drive demand for housing, office spaces, retail centres, and integrated townships. **–BMB**

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Punishments include demotion or even dismissal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reflecting action taken across all levels of law enforcement.

Two officials from the Bellandur Police Station, PSI Santhosh and PC Gorakhnath, were suspended for misconduct after being accused of demanding a ₹5,000 bribe from a retired former corporate executive after his daughter's death in October. The incident came to light following widespread social media outrage triggered by a post from former BPCL CFO Sivakumar K, who detailed the distress and harassment.

In November, three Varthur police officers, Sanjay Rathod, Santosh Kudari, and Archana, were suspended for allegedly detaining and physically assaulting a 34-year-domestic worker Sundari Bibi accused of stealing a ring.

Recently, the Bengaluru Central Jail came under scrutiny after videos emerged showing inmates enjoying VVIP treatment, partying, and consuming alcohol inside the prison. Following the controversy, a Chief Superintendent and an Assistant Superintendent at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison were suspended. Inspector Sunil HB and ASI Prakash from DJ Halli Police Station were suspended following allegations by a 36-year-old woman of sexual assault and demanding sexual favours. In September, 11 police personnel, including an inspector (T Manjanna) and several head constables and constables from the Chamarajpet and JJ Nagar stations, were suspended for allegedly protecting drug peddlers in exchange for monthly bribes.

Four police personnel from the MK Doddi police station were suspended in August after a man in their custody, a 59-year-old theft suspect, was found dead by suicide in the lockup bathroom while the officers on duty were reportedly asleep. A departmental inquiry and CCTV footage confirmed negligence. Two policemen from the Indiranagar station were suspended for allegedly extorting money from a differently-abled man by threatening to frame him in a false drug case.

Security lapses at Central Jail have also been ongoing. A traffic cop was suspended after a viral video showed him slapping a youth at Madiwala, Silk Board Circle. Citizens demanded a criminal case calling it an assault, not mere misbehaviour.

Kuldeep Jain explained that enforcing disciplinary action is crucial, as accountability within the police force is fundamental to maintaining public trust. He said, "Even first-time violations cannot be overlooked, because leniency may set a precedent and encourage others to repeat similar misconduct believing that they too will be given another chance. They are aware of the rules and laws. They can't say they didn't know about certain rules or laws, as it is just a matter of common sense at any given situation."

He further explained that cases are classified as major or minor based on the nature of the allegation, the explanation provided by the accused, and the overall background of the complaint. epending on these factors, various forms of disciplinary action may be imposed. "These punishments can range from suspension, demotion, or even dismissal. In some instances, the punishment may include reduction of increments, lowering of rank or pay scale, or both. If the allegations against an officer are found to be false or unproven, the department restores all benefits that were withheld during the inquiry. This includes any pending promotions, accumulated leave, and providing all other entitlements that the officer was eligible for," he said.

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Notice is hereby given to public at large that We, **Mrs. AZRA KHADIR BANU**, &, **Mrs. GHOUSIA KHADIR BANU** both daughters of **Late S.G. Abdul Khalaq,** have **LOST** or misplaced the Original property documents Viz., 1) Allotment letter, 2) Possession Certificate, Ref No.M 1155/ IRFT 80, dated: 20/12/1980, & 3) Sale Deed No.9650/80-81, dated: 20/12/1980 issued and executed by Ilyasnagar Rehabilation & Farming Trust (Regd) in respect of the Schedule Property.

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E-lost complaint **No.1907255/ 2025,** dated: 17/11/2025.

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I, Pratap Venkataramanappa S/o Venkataramanappa R/o #78,2nd Cross, Chamundeshwari Bakery Gandhipuram B'lore-560066 have changed my name to Prathap Venkataramanappa.

I, DIVAKAR CHAKRAVARTI R/at No. 15/1, 1st floor, KHM Block 7th Main Road, Ganganagar, RT Nagar Post, Bengaluru- 560032, have changed my name to DIVAKAR SHESHACHAL SWAMY CHAKRAVARTHI vide affidavit dated: 21/11/2025 Before Notary K.V.Mani Bangalore.

I Kuswaha Shashikant Indrasan S/o Indrasan Ramdhyan Kuswaha R/o 3rd Flr,Roopa Krishnamurthy Bldg ,11 CRS,Swamy Vivekananda Nagar,Hoskote-562114 have ch - anged my name to Shashikant Kuswaha for all purposes.

I Ankita Ajai Kumar Singh D/O, Ajai Kumar Singh R/o Prabhu Nivas Sbi Colony Bhavani Nagar Road Keshwapur Hubli 580023 have changed my name to Ankita Singh.

I, Rajeshwari Basavaraj Marihal R/O f 401 Arvind oasis apmt B'lore 560073 Have changed my name Rajeshwari Shivangouda Dyamanagoudar to Rajeshwari Basavaraj Marihal for all future purposes.

I, Sulthana Raziya.T W/o Syed Ameen R/o #202 Golden Nest apt 2nd floor 1st C main gokula first stage Yeswanthpura B'luru 560022 have changed my name to Sulthana Raziya.

I Madan mohan babu R/o 37/3,Halasuru road,yellappa chetty layout,Bengaluru-42,Have changed my name to Lokaraju Madan Mohan Babu for all the purpose.

I, Sarada Pavan Pingali W/o Viswanatham Gudipati R/o 130/130/128, 8th Main, Pramod Layout, Nayandahalli B'lore-560039 have changed my name to Sarada Pavan Gudipati.

I, Sandhya Srinath D/o Dasharatha Rao Kunigal Nanjunda Rao R/o 506,4th Floor Saravana Esplande Yeshwanthapura B'luru-560022 have changed my name to D. Sandhya

I, VEENA SHANMUGAM D/o SHANMUGAM M R/o No 22/1, Kothnur main road, TR Hospital, JP Nagar 7th phas, Bangalore-560078. I have changed my name to VEENA KUMARI S vide affidavit dated: 19/11/2025 Before Notary RAMACHANDRAPPA. C Bengaluru.

I, DEVRAJ AJAY S/o MUNIRATHNAM NAIDU R/o No 50, 2nd cross Katriguppe main road ITI Colony Vidyapeeta Hosakerehalli Bengaluru-560085. I have changed my name to GOWTHAM D vide affidavit dated: 19/11/2025 Before Notary RAMACHANDRAPPA. C Bengaluru.

WE, THAJUDEEN S & NASRIN K R/o No 72 1st main 4th cross koramangala Rajendra Nagar viveknagar 560047. Do Hereby Declare that we have changed my minor Daughter's name From TABRIN KHANUM T to KHATEEJA T vide affidavit dated: 11/11/2025 Before Notary RAMACHANDRAPPA. C Bengaluru.

I, Haritha D/o P N Harinath R/o #302, Sri Nilaya Residency Decon Foms Ananth Nagar B'lore-560100 have changed my name to Haritha Harinath

I, Nusrath Bathul W/o Mirza Hasmath Ali R/o #453, GF,8th Main,6th Cross,VIVEKNAGAR B'lore-560047 have changed my name to Nusrath Bathool.

I, Nachiketha P B S/o Bhanuprakash P B, R/o 44, Brindavan Layout, Vijinapura, Doorvaninagar, Ramamurth - ynagar, B'luru–560016, Karnataka, have changed my name to Nachiketh P B.

I, Santhosh Kumar Karunanidhi S/o, Karunanidhi R/o #69,gundu Thopu ambedkar Nagar,tavarekere, Dharmaram College,B'luru 560029 have changed my name to Santhosh Kumar.

I Dakshesh K Jain S/O, Vidosh Kumar Jain R/o A305, Nirvana, Soul Tree, Ittina Haveli Layout, Kadaagrahara Village, Sompura Gate, Bangalore, Karnataka-562125 have changed my name to Dakshesh Jain.

I, Kalaivanan R S/o Rajamani P residing at No 8 Kalamma Road, R S palya, Bangalore-33 declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as Samual in my PAN card . The actual name of my father is Rajamani P

I, Swetha N V w/o Santhosh Kumar R, R/o No.66, Ramaiah Badavane, Bandapura, Virgonagar post, Bengaluru 560049 have changed my name to Shwetha N V (Shwetha Narayanaswamy Vijayamma) Affidavit Dt.20/11/2025 Notary Harisha G, Bengaluru

I, UMAIMA FARHEEN MADEKAR residing at PH2 RK Sania Apartment 2nd Cross Pilanna Garden Sonappa Block 3rd Stage Bangalore – 560045. I have changed my name to UMAIMA FARHEEN. Vide affidavit dated 18/11/2025 sworn before notary. Leela Bangalore

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Zero case goal elusive as antenatal positivity, HIV infections creep up

Antenatal HIV positivity, which had fallen from 1.5% in 2005 to 0.22% by 2019 has now risen to 0.57%, marking a 159% increase from its lowest recorded point

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Karnataka's progress in reducing HIV prevalence has suffered a worrying setback, with new data showing a significant resurgence both in percentage terms and absolute numbers. Antenatal HIV positivity, which had fallen from 1.5% in 2005 to 0.22% by 2019–20—a decline of 85%—has now risen to 0.57%, marking a 159% increase from its lowest recorded point.

Last year, 12.19 lakh pregnant women were tested and 418 were found HIV-positive; this year, 6.34 lakh have been screened so far, with 222 infections detected, signalling a continued upward trend. Infections in the general population show a similar escalation. Annual HIV cases rose from 9,520 in 2020–21 to 13,183 in 2023–24, a 38% increase. By 2024–25, the state recorded 12,453 cases, and in the current financial year 5,844 cases have already been logged. High-risk groups present mixed trends: the latest 2023–24 survey shows positivity at 0.69% among sex workers and 0.01% among injecting drug users—both low but vulnerable clusters requiring close monitoring.

Healthcare workers conduct antenatal HIV screenings, highlighting growing concern over maternal transmission across the state

Data indicates mounting numbers among adults, highlighting hurdles for service systems, requiring renewed strategies, strengthened monitoring mechanisms, expanded outreach partnerships, and education initiatives to sustain progress toward targets set

Antenatal surge signals systemic strain

Health officials attribute the reversal to a combination of post-pandemic behavioural fatigue, gaps in awareness, and inconsistent follow-up at field level. The spike among pregnant women is especially alarming because it increases the risk of mother-to-child transmission, a key indicator that Karnataka had previously managed to reduce substantially.

National goal vs regional reality

Despite India's commitment to achieving "zero new HIV infections by 2030", Karnataka's trajectory now challenges that mandate. The Health Department is integrating the state's HIV-control functions with the Karnataka Public Health System (KNPS) to streamline manpower and improve service delivery. Under the National AIDS Control Programme (2021–26), staff shortages and administrative inefficiencies have triggered major restructuring. A proposal reassigns the Joint Director (Basic Services) as Joint Director (AIDS Prevention), while certain Assistant Director roles—particularly those related to ICTC and PMTCT—may be merged or removed. The state currently has 411 counsellors and 455 laboratory technicians sanctioned for ICTC centres, with plans to retain critical ART and OI-management medical positions.

More than 57% of new infections are concentrated among individuals aged 31–50, indicating persistent transmission among sexually active adults. Notably, around 10% of infections occur among people over 50—an age group often overlooked in awareness campaigns. NGOs working in prevention and community outreach warn that these trends highlight a quiet but steady behavioural shift that demands renewed attention.

Experts say the data makes one point unmistakably clear: Karnataka is drifting away from its 2030 zero-infection goal. Rising antenatal cases, a steady climb in general infections, and ongoing administrative restructuring all point to the urgent need for reinvigorated public awareness, stronger surveillance, and targeted interventions across high-risk and general populations. The state's earlier gains show what is possible—its current numbers show how quickly hard-won progress can diminish.

New app to stop ration pilfering

To prevent leakage and malpractice in ration distribution, the Food and Civil Supplies Department of Karnataka is set to introduce an electronic point-of-sale mobile application. Following central government guidelines, weighing machines in fair-price shops will be linked to biometric authentication so that any discrepancy in weight is immediately visible to the consumer.

An official said that the app would be connected to a centralised government database, allowing beneficiaries to draw rations from any part of the state and enabling stricter monitoring of shop owners who fail to provide proper service.

Karnataka has over 20,000 fair-price shops, and the new app-based system—already operational in several districts—will soon cover all of them. The mobile platform includes Aadhaar-linked biometrics, barcode scanning and GPS tracking, ensuring every grain distributed is recorded transparently.

"The system will track stock movement, prevent illegal diversion and over-billing, and give beneficiaries real-time updates on their entitlements. Officials say this technology has increased beneficiary accuracy in other states, and Karnataka aims to replicate that success by eliminating fraud and making ration delivery fully transparent," an official added. **–BMB**

Tax notices to 49 Indiranagar shops

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation has issued demand notices to property owners on Indiranagar 100-ft Road following a property survey and revision of tax assessments. The survey, conducted last week was aimed at reviewing tax payments of commercial buildings and correcting discrepancies, said Commissioner Rajendra Cholan.

A total of 197 properties were inspected by a team of over 120 officials from nine property tax departments. Of these, 147 properties were found to be compliant, while 49 buildings showed discrepancies, amounting to a total demand of ₹7,21,79,000 (₹7.21 crore). In Jeevanbheemanagar Ward-80, of 71 properties, 51 were compliant, 10 had discrepancies below 5 per cent, and 10 properties received notices totalling ₹1,97,97,711. In Ward-88, 16 properties were issued notices for ₹3,89,53,507.

In Domlur Ward-89, 2 properties received notices totalling ₹45,28,909, while in Ward-112, 8 properties were served notices for ₹88,98,873. Technical issues prevented notices for two properties. Property owners have 15 days to respond to the notices. If no objections are raised, the Corporation will proceed to collect the outstanding tax as per regulations. **–BMB**

Report troublesome trees: 'Is dept doing anything at all?'

As East Corporation asks residents to report weak, dangerous trees before monsoon, some citizens say officials seem to be dragging feet

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) Forest Department's recent public notice has drawn mixed reactions from residents, environmentalists, and activists. The notice urges the public to report weak or dead trees that could pose a hazard during the monsoon.

Contact numbers have been provided for forest officers in KR Puram and Mahadevapura. Residents are advised to call 9480685541 for Mahadevapura or 9113530344 for KR Puram to alert the authorities about dangerous trees or dry branches.

While some residents welcomed the BECC Forest Department's initiative, terming it a good measure, others criticised the department for not being proactive in identifying dead, dangerous, and weak trees over the years.

"I welcome the BECC Forest Department's public notice. It allows the public to inform the department about weak and dead trees that pose a danger to pedestrians. It also helps the department focus on removing such trees before the onset of the monsoon," said KR Puram Constituency Association Welfare Federation Founder VP Krishna. Stating that an application to remove a tree on East Anjaneya Temple Road in Basavanagudi has been pending with the forest department for two years, Ananda Tirtha of Hasuri Ratha said that identifying and removing dead and weak trees is the responsibility of the local authority. "It is quite shocking to know that the then BBMP and the present GBA have not conducted a tree census in the city to date. If the public sends photos of dangerous, weak, and dead trees or dry branches, the forest department officials ask numerous questions, including how the complainant is connected to or affected by the tree, and how far it is from their house. Many complaints and requests from the public are yet to be addressed by the officials. The department appears to be doing nothing apart from attending cases in various courts in the city," said Ananda Tirtha. An environmental activist, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the GBA has engaged around 30 contractors to remove dead and weak trees. "The contract is for a year, and the contractors receive payment every month. The BECC Forest Department's public notice is rather amusing. Instead of ensuring that the contractors focus on dead and weak trees, the Forest Department officials are advising the public to send photographs of such trees," the activist said.

A large, unstable tree that poses serious danger to the public, especially to motorists, on East Anjaneya Temple Road

Meanwhile, the Greater Bengaluru Authority Deputy Conservator of Forests stated that eight MSc (Forestry) graduates had been assigned to identify dead and weak trees. "We had intended to invite 10 MSc (Forestry) graduates for the enumeration of dead and weak trees, but only eight of them turned up," the DCF said.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

PEACE PALM BM reader has captured a young palm, its three fronds reaching skyward, with spiky leaves resembling antennas, transmitting a message of peace and brotherhood to the universe. The picture was clicked by BM reader **T Hanish Sharma**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

NASA unveiled close-up pictures on Wednesday of the interstellar comet making a brief, one-off tour of the Solar System. Discovered over the summer, 3I/Atlas is only the third confirmed object to visit from another star. It passed harmlessly by Mars last month.
Three NASA spacecraft on and near the Red Planet observed the comet as it passed 18 million miles (29 million kilometres) away. ESA's two Mars orbiters also made observations. Other NASA spacecraft, including the Webb Space Telescope, will continue monitoring, while ground-based telescopes track the comet 190 million miles (307 million kilometres) from Earth. The comet is visible from Earth in the pre-dawn sky using binoculars or a telescope. Its closest approach to Earth is 167 million miles (269 million kilometres) in mid-December, after which it will return to interstellar space. Believed to be 1,444 feet (440 metres) to 3.5 miles (5.6 kilometres) across, 3I/Atlas may have originated in a star system older than ours. NASA dismissed rumours of it being an alien ship, calling it a "friendly Solar System visitor." — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

Mysuru, Tumakuru to become Karnataka's next IT hubs

New IT Policy 2025–30 dangles 16 incentives to lure tech firms from Bengaluru to tier-2 and tier-3 cities, aiming to unclog the capital and boost software exports to ₹11.5 lakh crore by 2030

In In a decisive attempt to ease the mounting strain on Bengaluru's infrastructure and redistribute the state's tech ecosystem, the Karnataka government has unveiled the IT Policy 2025–30, offering 16 incentives for companies establishing operations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities. These include rebates on property tax, electricity duty, and Provident Fund reimbursements—part of a push to steer IT investments towards Mysuru, Mangaluru, Shivamogga, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Belagavi, and Davangere. The move aims to decongest the "Silicon City," where rapid urban expansion has deepened challenges such as gridlocked traffic, rising overhead costs, and infrastructure saturation.

At the heart of this shift is the government's ambition to boost Karnataka's software exports from ₹4.09 lakh crore to ₹11.5 lakh crore by 2030, while positioning the state as a national hub for AI and emerging technologies. To achieve this, the policy earmarks ₹445.5 crore for implementation and offers incentives spanning innovation grants, R&D support, internship reimbursements, hiring assistance, talent mobility funding, EPF support, skill-training refunds, certification reimbursements, IP incentives, power-tariff concessions, electricity-duty refunds, property-tax reimbursements, telecom-infrastructure support, and assistance for hosting events. Companies that continue to operate in Bengaluru district will receive a reduced package of six incentives focused on innovation, internships, certification support, IP promotion, and energy-tariff benefits—signalling a clear policy pivot encouraging Karnataka's tech future beyond its overburdened capital.

Tech migration in motion: K'taka offers 16 perks to shift companies out of B'luru

Neighbouring districts wooing Bengaluru tech firms

While Bengaluru has long been India's Silicon Valley, competition is emerging from both major metros like Hyderabad and Gurugram and neighbouring districts. Cities such as Tumakuru are rapidly positioning themselves to attract IT investments. In a major push to brand Tumakuru as the next IT hub, Deputy Commissioner Subha Kalyan met IT entrepreneurs on Wednesday to discuss creating a favourable ecosystem for companies. Highlighting Tumakuru's existing connection to the tech sector, she noted nearly 4,000 professionals currently commute to Bengaluru for IT jobs. "Setting up IT companies in Tumakuru would greatly benefit these employees by cutting down travel time and enhancing their work-life balance," she said. — BMB

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Fake Rafale clip targets President Murmu—PIB blows the lid on AI hoax

Claim: A video circulating on social media, pushed by Pakistani propaganda accounts, alleges that President Droupadi Murmu was "blackmailed" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote Rafale fighter jets. The AI-generated clip features a fake voice of the President making these claims.
Fact: Misleading. PIB Fact Check confirms the video is digitally manipulated. The President of India has not made any such statement. The clip is AI-generated and intended to mislead the public.

A digitally-altered video of President Droupadi Murmu is making rounds on social media, pushed by Pakistani propaganda accounts with the false claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is using her as a prop to promote Rafale fighter jets.

PIB Fact Check took to X on Wednesday to set the record straight: "Pakistani propaganda accounts are circulating a digitally altered video of President Droupadi Murmu with false claims that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is using her as a prop to elevate Rafale PR."

The manipulated clip features an AI-generated voice pretending to be President Murmu, falsely alleging that the PM's government "blackmailed" her into participating in Rafale promotions. The fake statements included: "I want to request the citizens of our country that Modi Ji's Hindutva government blackmailed me and ordered me to sit in Rafale… If anything happens to me, Modi Ji and his Hindutva politics will be responsible."

Pakistani propaganda accounts are pushing a fake video of President Murmu linked to Rafale promotion. PIB confirms the clip is AI-generated and dismisses all claims as false

PIB Fact Check categorically dismissed these claims: "The President of India has NOT made any such statement."The agency warned that the video is AI-generated and designed to mislead the public. Users were urged to report such misinformation via official channels on WhatsApp (+918799711259) or email (factcheck@pib.gov.in).

This is not the first AI-generated hoax flagged by the agency. On Monday, PIB also debunked a fake video of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, which falsely promoted an "investment programme" promising returns of Rs 60,000 in 24 hours and Rs 10 lakh a month. PIB's advice remains clear: don't fall for get-rich-quick traps. Citizens should verify claims before acting on them and check for signs of video manipulation—distorted lip movements, mismatched voice sync, inconsistent backgrounds, or fake logos. Always ensure official links end with ".gov.in."

— ET Online

The Whistle Blower @In... · 2h
Breaking News:
Indian President Smt. Droupadi Murmu blames Narendra Modi for using her as a prop to elevate Rafale PR.
She directly holds Modi responsible & refuses to fly unless given assurances.
FAKE
FAKE
FAKE

IAF Tejas accident triggers shock at Dubai Airshow

Black smoke rose across Dubai runway after Tejas crash claimed pilot's life, stunning crowds and drawing rapid intervention from responders

Tejas aircraft of the Indian Air Force crashed during the Dubai Air Show 2025, the IAF said on Friday

IN FOCUS
Tejas crash

According to local media, the plane crashed around 2.10 pm local time during an aerial display, with Gulf News reporting that spectators witnessed the impact from viewing enclosures near the runway

The Dubai Media Office on Friday said that emergency teams and firefighters have reached the crash site of the IAF Tejas aircraft and are managing the situation. The Media Office also confirmed the tragic death of the pilot.

In a post on X, the Dubai Media Office stated, "A Tejas fighter aircraft from India participating in today's flying display at the Dubai Airshow has crashed, resulting in the tragic death of the pilot. Firefighting and emergency teams responded rapidly to the incident and are currently managing the situation on-site."

A Tejas aircraft of the Indian Air Force crashed during the Dubai Air Show 2025, the IAF said on Friday. "An IAF Tejas aircraft met with an accident during an aerial display at Dubai Air Show, today. The pilot sustained fatal injuries in the accident. IAF deeply regrets the loss of life and stands firmly with the bereaved family in this time of grief. A court of inquiry is being constituted, to ascertain the cause of the accident," the IAF said in its official statement.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan also expressed regret over the loss of life. "General Anil Chauhan, CDS and all ranks of Indian Armed Forces deeply regret the incident in which an IAF Tejas aircraft met with an accident during an aerial display at Dubai Air Show, today. The pilot sustained fatal injuries in the accident. We deeply regret the loss of life and stand firmly with the bereaved family in this time of grief," the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff said in its statement.

According to local media reports, the plane went down around 2.10 pm local time while performing an aerial display before a large crowd. Gulf News reported that spectators at the airshow witnessed the crash from viewing enclosures near the runway.

Khaleej Times reported that the fighter jet crashed into the ground soon after take-off. One eyewitness told the Khaleej Times, "As soon as the plane took off, it crashed. I am not sure which aircraft it was."

Another eyewitness cited by the newspaper said that helicopters and firefighters rushed to the spot. "It is all clear now," he said. "Within about 45 minutes, the entire incident was taken care of. We are not sure if the programme will restart."

Gulf News also reported that the show was temporarily halted, and visitors were directed back to the exhibition area.

-ANI

SOCIALTATTLE

THAT WENT VIRAL

The initiative to give Rs 5,000 to dog bite victims has turned fodder for memes. @sajcasm has this funny take on what a Bengaluru dog would tell a citizen.

A techie from North India shares a hilarious rant on Instagram about how

North Indians in Bangalore
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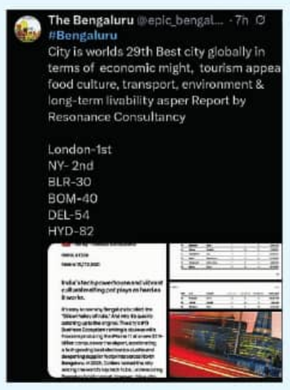
WHAT'S TWEETING

@epicbengaluru celebrates the fact that Bengaluru is 29th best city globally in terms of several parameters.


The Bengaluru @epic_bengal... · 7h
#Bengaluru
City is worlds 29th Best city globally in terms of economic might, tourism appea food culture, transport, environment & long-term livability asper Report by Resonance Consultancy
London-1st
NY- 2nd
BLR-30
BOM-40
DEL-54
HYD-82

BANGALORE MIRROR TAGGED

BM's story on the Gen Z initiatives to keep kadalekai parishe plastic free is appreciated by reader and citizen. @Indianplogman praises the headline and the positive impact of the initiative.

INBRIEF

Two held for leaking sensitive naval information

Malpe police arrested two individuals on Friday for allegedly leaking sensitive information about an Indian Navy vessel docked at the Udupi Cochin Shipyard, according to officials. The security breach was first flagged by the shipyard, which functions under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, prompting a formal complaint and the registration of an FIR. The accused, identified as Rohit (29) and Santri (37), allegedly shared confidential details with unauthorised persons, posing what authorities described as a threat to national security and sovereignty. Rohit, a former employee of the Cochin Shipyard in Kochi, is suspected of circulating ship identification numbers and other data through WhatsApp in exchange for illegal payments. Officials said both men, originally from Uttar Pradesh, were produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody till December 3 as the investigation continues. Authorities also allege that even after shifting to Malpe, Rohit continued receiving classified information from an associate in Kochi and forwarding it. -ANI

Ganja found hidden on prison staffer

A staff member at Shivamogga Central Prison was arrested after he was found carrying ganja, police said on Friday. Satwik (25), working as a First Division Assistant (FDA), was taken into custody on Thursday during a routine search inside the prison. A senior police officer said that when Satwik reported for duty, officers found an object wrapped in duct tape hidden in his undergarments. On inspection, it was found to contain 170 grams of ganja. The incident was reported to the Jail Superintendent, who filed a complaint at Tunga Nagar police station. Further investigation is underway. -PTI

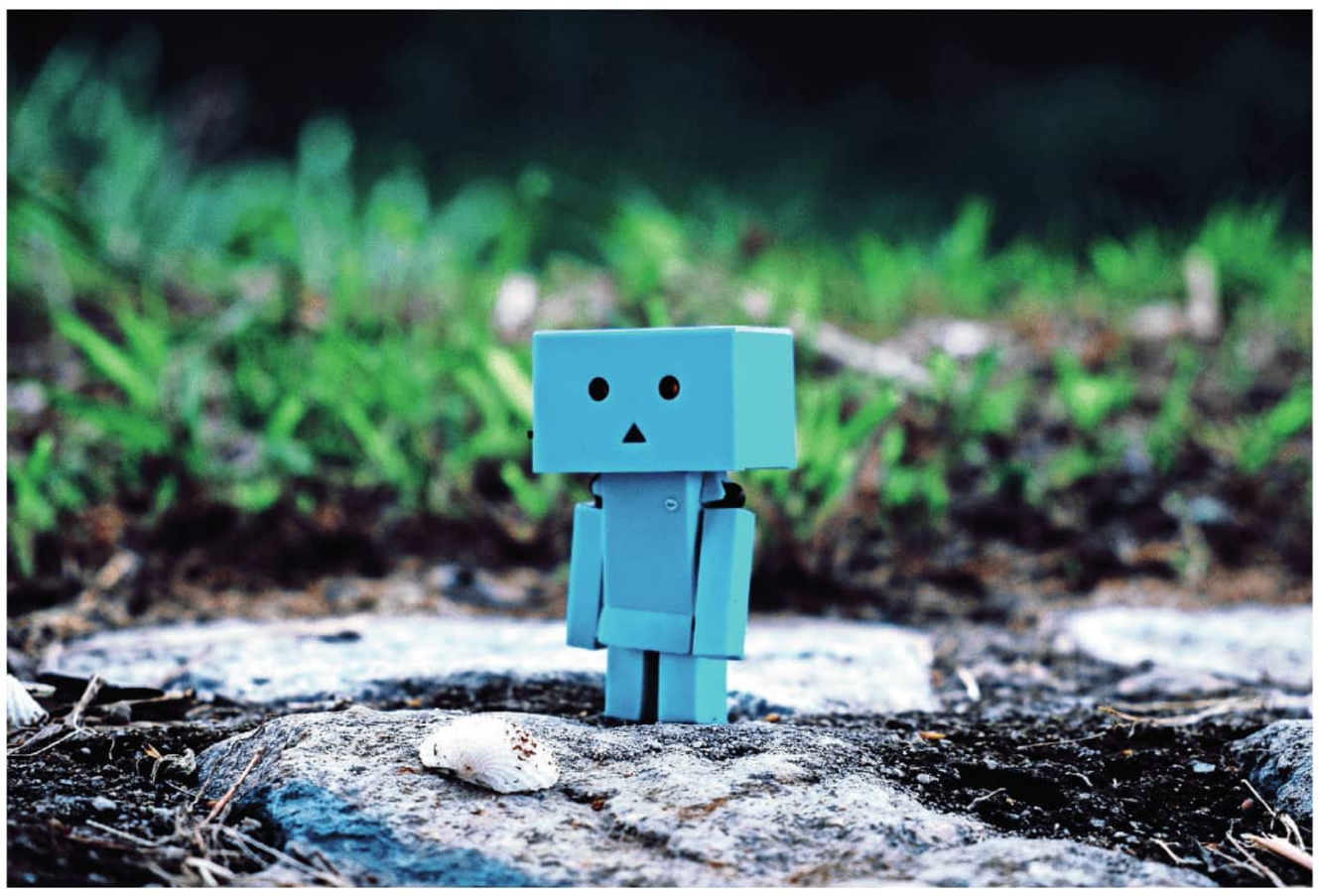
Top cricket education post open now

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday announced that it is inviting applications for the position of Head – Cricket Education at its Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru. The post was earlier held by former India cricketer Sujith Somasunder, who is currently contesting for the Vice President's post in the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) elections as part of the Venkatesh Prasad-led panel.

In its release, the BCCI said the full-time position is central to its long-term plan to build a world-class cricket education ecosystem supporting coaches, athletes, state academies and high-performance programmes across the country. The selected candidate will lead the design and delivery of cricket and sports-science education at the CoE. Applicants up to 58 years can apply until 5 pm IST on December 8. -IANS

Advocacy groups urge parents to avoid AI toys this holiday season

TOYING WITH AI



They're cute, even cuddly, and promise learning and companionship — but artificial intelligence toys are not safe for kids, according to children's and consumer advocacy groups urging parents not to buy them during the holiday season.

These toys, marketed to kids as young as 2 years old, are generally powered by AI models that have already been shown to harm children and teenagers, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, according to an advisory published Thursday by the children's advocacy group Fairplay and signed by more than 150 organizations and individual experts such as child psychiatrists and educators.

"The serious harms that AI chatbots have inflicted on children are well-documented, including fostering obsessive use, having explicit sexual conversations, and encouraging unsafe behaviors, violence against others, and self-harm," Fairplay said.

AI toys, made by companies such as Curio Interactive and Keyi Technologies, are often marketed as educational, but Fairplay says they can displace important creative and learning activities. They promise friendship but also disrupt children's relationships and resilience, the group said.

"What's different about young children is that their brains are being wired for the first time and developmentally it is natural for them to be trustful, for them to seek relationships with kind and friendly characters," said Rachel Franz, director of Fairplay's Young Children Thrive Offline Program. Because of this, she added, the amount of trust young children are putting in these toys can exacerbate the harms seen with older children.

Fairplay, a 25-year-old organisation formerly known as the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, has been warning about AI toys for years. They just weren't as advanced as they are today. A decade ago, during an emerging fad of internet-connected toys and AI speech recognition, the group helped lead a backlash against Mattel's talking Hello Barbie doll that it said was recording and analysing children's conversations.

> **"What's different about young children is that their brains are being wired for the first time and developmentally it is natural for them to be trustful, for them to seek relationships with kind and friendly characters**

This time, though AI toys are mostly sold online and more popular in Asia than elsewhere, Franz said some have started to appear on store shelves in the U.S. and more could be on the way. "Everything has been released with no regulation and no research, so it gives us extra pause when all of a sudden we see more and more manufacturers, including Mattel, who recently partnered with OpenAI, potentially putting out these products," Franz said.

It's the second big seasonal warning against AI toys since consumer advocates at U.S. PIRG last week called out the trend in its annual "Trouble in Toyland" report that typically looks at a range of product hazards, such as high-powered magnets and button-sized batteries that young children can swallow. This year, the organization tested four toys that use AI chatbots.

"We found some of these toys will talk in-depth about sexually explicit topics, will offer advice on where a child can find matches or knives, act dismayed when you say you have to leave, and have limited or no parental controls," the report said. One of the toys, a teddy bear made by Singapore-based FoloToy, was later withdrawn, its CEO told CNN this week.

> **"While kids have always bonded with toys through imaginative play, when they do this they use their imagination to create both sides of a pretend conversation, "practicing creativity, language, and problem-solving,". An AI toy collapses that work. It answers instantly**

Dr. Dana Suskind, a pediatric surgeon and social scientist who studies early brain development, said young children don't have the conceptual tools to understand what an AI companion is. While kids have always bonded with toys through imaginative play, when they do this they use their imagination to create both sides of a pretend conversation, "practicing creativity, language, and problem-solving," she said.

"An AI toy collapses that work. It answers instantly, smoothly, and often better than a human would. We don't yet know the developmental consequences of outsourcing that imaginative labor to an artificial agen — but it's very plausible that it undercuts the kind of creativity and executive function that traditional pretend play builds," Suskind said.

Beijing-based Keyi, maker of an AI "petbot" called Loona, didn't return requests for comment this week, but other AI toymakers sought to highlight their child safety protections.

California-based Curio Interactive makes stuffed toys, like Gabbo and rocket-shaped Grok, that have been promoted by the pop singer Grimes. The company said it has "meticulously designed" guardrails to protect children and the company encourages parents to "monitor conversations, track insights, and choose the controls that work best for their family."

In response to the earlier PIRG findings, Curio said it is "actively working with our team to address any concerns, while continuously overseeing content and interactions to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for children."

Another company, Miko, based in Mumbai, India, said it uses its own conversational AI model rather than relying on general large language model systems such as ChatGPT in order to make its product — an interactive AI robot — safe for children.

"We are always expanding our internal testing, strengthening our filters, and introducing new capabilities that detect and block sensitive or unexpected topics," said CEO Sneh Vaswani. "These new features complement our existing controls that allow parents and caregivers to identify specific topics they'd like to restrict from conversation. We will continue to invest in setting the highest standards for safe, secure and responsible AI integration for Miko products." **AP**

BITS & BYTES

OPENAI, FOXCONN TIE UP

OpenAI and Taiwan electronics giant Foxconn have agreed to a partnership to design and manufacture key equipment for artificial intelligence data centers in the U.S. as part of ambitious plans to fortify American AI infrastructure.

Foxconn, which makes AI servers for Nvidia and assembles Apple products including the iPhone, will be co-designing and developing AI data center racks with OpenAI under the agreement, the companies said in separate statements on Thursday and Friday. Foxconn has factories in the U.S., including in Wisconsin, Ohio and Texas. **AP**

GOOGLE'S FINAL PLEA

Alphabet's Google will make its final plea to avoid a breakup of its advertising technology business in a U.S. court on Friday, as the Department of Justice's antitrust case draws to a close. Google has so far come away largely unscathed from a bipartisan government legal crackdown on the dominance of Big Tech - a push that began during the first term of President Donald Trump.

But that could change, depending on what U.S. District Court Judge Leonie Brinkema in Alexandria, Virginia, decides. Brinkema ruled in April that Google holds two illegal ad tech monopolies, and is now considering what the company must do to restore competition.

The closing arguments on Friday mark the end of evidentiary hearings in Google's years-long battle with the DOJ over its dominance in online advertising and search. **Reuters**

BITCOIN'S NEW LOW

Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, fell to its lowest level since April on Friday as worries over the US economy triggered a broader selloff in digital assets.

The cryptocurrency dropped 7.18 per cent to $85,966.75 during intra-day trading session. Its market value stood at $1.71 trillion, while trading volumes in the past 24 hours reached $94 billion.

Ether, the second-largest cryptocurrency, also slipped sharply. It fell 7.92 per cent to $2,797.50 as selling pressure spilled across the crypto market.

Analysts said Bitcoin's decline is linked to rising uncertainty in the US macroeconomic environment. **IANS**

EARLY SUPPER

Should we eat dinner earlier in winter? Timing might matter more than you think

The rhythms of winter can feel heavier — shorter days, darker evenings, and often, later dinners. But shifting when we eat during the winter could make these months a little easier on our bodies and minds.

Our bodies operate on circadian rhythms – internal 24-hour clocks that regulate sleep, metabolism, digestion and hormone cycles. These rhythms are naturally synchronised with light and dark, so when daylight fades earlier, our metabolism also begins to wind down.

This connection between metabolism and daylight may help explain why a growing body of research from the field of chrononutrition suggests that when we eat may be nearly as important as what we eat. Chrononutrition examines how meal timing interacts with our internal body clock, and what effect short days might have on mood, metabolism and health.

For instance, one study found that healthy adults who ate dinner at 10 pm experienced 20 per cent higher blood sugar peaks and burned 10 per cent less fat compared to those who ate dinner at 6 pm. This was despite both groups eating identical meals and having similar bedtimes.

Broader analyses support the same trends, with a meta-analysis of 29 trials reporting that earlier eating windows, fewer meals and eating the bulk of one's calories earlier in the day were linked to greater weight loss and improved metabolic markers (such as better blood pressure and lower blood sugar and cholesterol levels).

Other research links consistent late-night eating – especially close to bedtime – with poorer health outcomes and a greater risk of obesity and metabolic disorders such as type 2 diabetes.

Earlier dinners may better align with the body's natural metabolic rhythms, particularly when the last meal occurs well before the body enters its "rest" phase. This might explain why eating earlier has health benefits.

Many chronobiologists conclude that aligning food intake with circadian biology represents a promising, low-cost method of improving metabolic outcomes – especially when combined with other lifestyle factors such as physical activity and healthy eating.

Eating with intent

In winter, especially in northern latitudes, shorter days and longer nights can disrupt circadian rhythms.

Reduced sunlight can lower serotonin levels, contributing to low mood or seasonal affective disorder (SAD). When paired with longer evenings indoors, it's common for people to snack more often or delay eating dinner until later at night.

But digestion, hormone release (including those that help with sleep and digestion) and even the amount of calories you burn throughout the day all follow circadian rhythms. When meals are pushed too close to sleep, these processes overlap in ways that can affect both metabolism and rest – potentially increasing risks of poor sleep and metabolic ill health.

While light and dark have the biggest influence on circadian rhythms, food intake, stress, physical activity, and temperature also affect them.

So, should you eat dinner earlier in winter?

For some people, yes — at least a little earlier. There are three main reasons why.

The first has to do with metabolic alignment. Eating when your metabolism is still active supports better blood sugar control, energy use and fat burning.

The second has to do with digestion. Leaving a few hours between dinner and bedtime allows digestion to wind down before sleep, which may improve sleep quality and recovery.

The third reason has to do with supporting mood and circadian rhythms. A consistent eating window and earlier dinner can help anchor daily routines – especially helpful when other time cues (such as daylight) are weaker.

But here's the caveat: this isn't a one-size-fits-all solution. Many different factors – such as how active you are, if you have any chronic conditions, and your schedule – need to be taken into account.

An elite athlete training in the evening may need a later meal to support performance and recovery. But someone less active might benefit more from an earlier, lighter dinner.

So rather than rigid rules, think of meal timing as a flexible tool in your nutrition toolkit. The real focus should be on eating with intent.

This means taking into account your goals (such as whether you want to lose weight or boost athletic performance), how often you exercise, how close to bedtime you normally eat, how you feel depending on the time of day you eat dinner and what's realistic given your schedule.

By Catherine Norton, University of Limerick, The Conversation

SOME OTHER MEALTIME TIPS FOR WINTER

- **finishing dinner earlier, ideally between 5.30 pm-7.00pm, or at least two to three hours before bedtime**
- **front-loading your calories by making breakfast and lunch more substantial while there's more daylight and your metabolism is more active**
- **planning around activity, so if you exercise late, have your main meal earlier and a small recovery snack afterwards**
- **keeping a consistent eating window, finishing eating by around 8 pm most nights to support circadian alignment**
- **reflecting and adjusting by noting how meal timing affects your energy, sleep quality and mood for a week or two, then changing as needed**
- **staying flexible by remembering perfection isn't required – a regular schedule and awareness of what you need is what counts.**

MIRRORLIGHTS

US study finds physical activity in mid-life could lower dementia risk by 45%

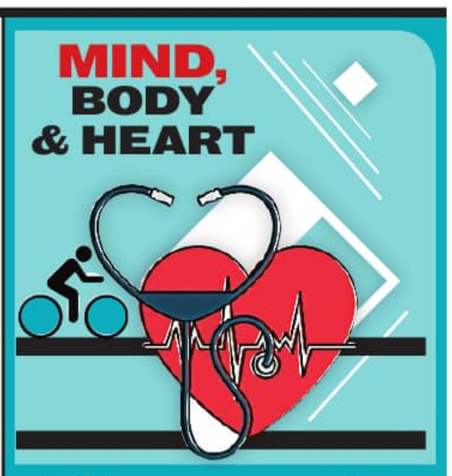
Regular physical activity during mid-life years and later could lower one's risk of developing dementia by up to 45 per cent, compared to those who are less active during the period, found an analysis of over 4,300 adults in a US town.

The findings, published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), could help develop strategies that are timed to the most relevant stages of adult life, researchers said.

Dementia is an ageing-related condition in which one's memory, thought processes and speech are steadily impacted over time, and can eventually interfere with daily activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.

Researchers from Boston University School of Medicine looked at data from the 'Framingham Heart Study', which began in 1948 and recruited men and women from the town of Framingham in the US state of Massachusetts. The participants were followed up for a period of up to 37 years.

"Individuals with the highest levels of physical activity at mid-life and late-life had 41 per cent and 45 per cent lower risk of all-cause dementia, respectively, compared with those with the lowest levels of physical activity," authors wrote. —PTI



All you need to know about...

Lung cancer breakthrough

Weakness identified
Researchers uncovered a powerful weakness in lung cancer by shutting down a protein that helps tumours survive stress.

Protein FSP1
When this protein, FSP1, was blocked, lung tumours in mice shrank dramatically, with many cancer cells essentially triggering their own self-destruct mode. The work points to a fresh strategy for targeting stubborn lung cancers.

Cell death
Researchers at NYU Langone Health have identified how a specific form of cell death linked to the buildup of highly reactive molecules can slow the growth of lung tumours.
This type of cell death, known as ferroptosis, originally evolved as a way for the body to clear out cells that become overly stressed.
Cancer cells fall into this category, yet over time, they have developed ways to block ferroptosis so they can continue multiplying even under damaging conditions.

Experimental therapy
A study published online November 5 in Nature showed that an experimental therapy targeting a protein called ferroptosis suppressor protein 1 (FSP1) significantly reduced tumour growth in mice with lung adenocarcinoma (LUAD). Blocking this protein, which helps cancer cells avoid ferroptosis, shrank tumours by as much as 80%.

Survival rates
Lung cancer remains the world's leading cause of cancer-related deaths, and LUAD is the most common form among nonsmokers, accounting for about 40% of cases.
"This first test of a drug that blocks ferroptosis suppression highlights the importance of the process to cancer cell survival and paves the way for a new treatment strategy," said senior study author Thales Papagiannakopoulos, PhD[GW1], an associate professor in the Department of Pathology[GW2] at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. —PTI

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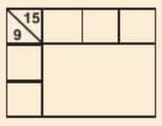
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

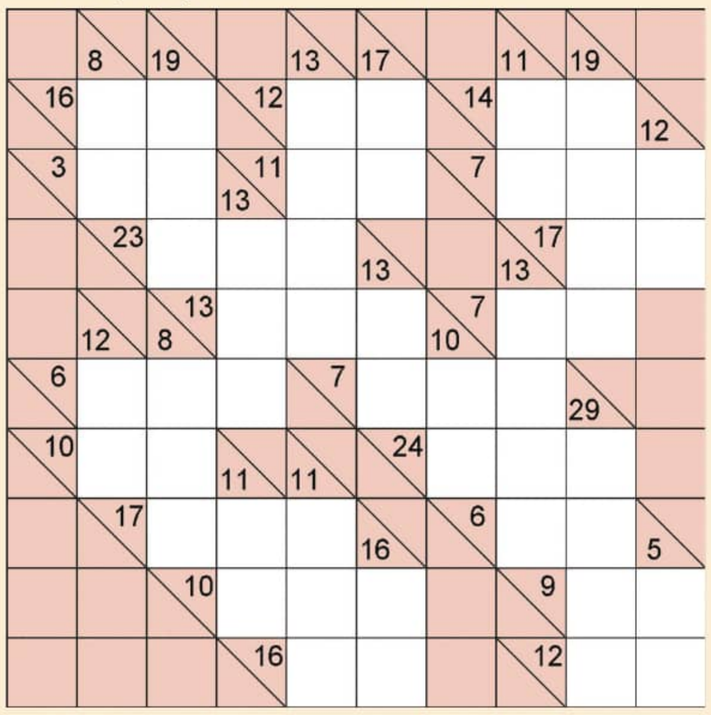
√(11 × 2^2 + 5^2 + 10^2) / (1/13)^−1 = ?

Kakuro

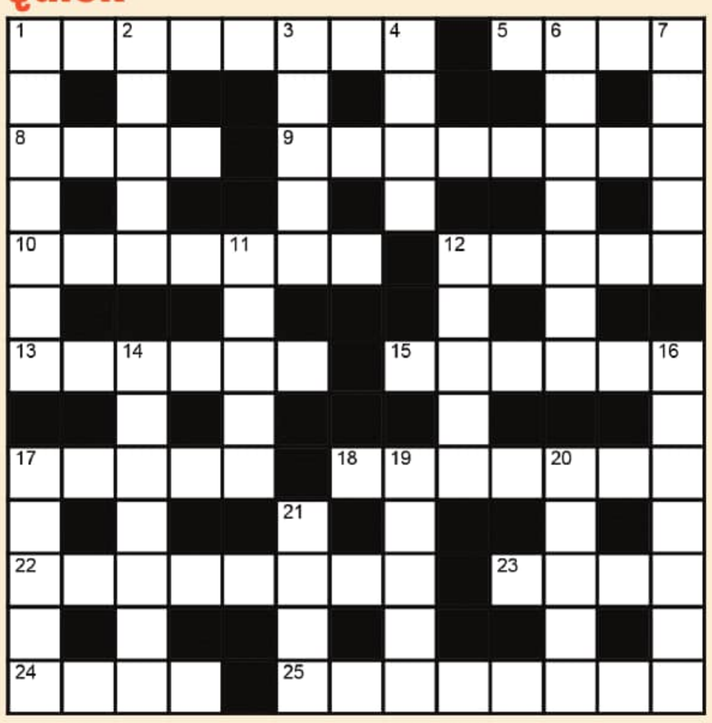
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Make-up (informal) (3,5)
5 Indias ___ capital: Bangalore for sure (4)
8 An alcoholic radical (4)
9 A cranial nerve (8)
10 Helped or did a favour to (7)
12 Sedate, sober (5)
13 Difficult, annoying (6)
15 Modifies (6)
17 Reshmas romantic counter part ? (5)
18 Excavated or gathered in? (7)
22 Try out for a role (8)
23 Inactive (4)
24 Fathers (4)
25 Was very noticeable (5,3)

DOWN

1 Erode, cause to diminish by constant usage (4,3)
2 Most high-born (5)
3 Furious (5)
4 Commotion (2-2)
6 Raise (7)
7 Completely destroyed (5)
11 Holy river for us Indians (5)
12 Volley of shots (5)
14 Surrendered (7)
16 Unhappiest (7)
17 Become upright (5)
19 Worlds deepest river (5)
20 Peter in Spain or Portugal (5)
21 Successful tunes (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: E EQUALS G

PC, PC, UCQDA PCJ JKFPZFPE;
UCQDA YQMJ OAFPE VCEFXRV.

Linemaro

Let's play titanic. You be the ocean and I will go down on you

Mind chow

No dreamer is ever too small, no dream is ever too big

Joke of the day

Paddy and Murphy are having a pint in the pub when some scuba divers come on the TV. Paddy says, "Murphy, why is it them deep sea divers always sit on the side of the boat with them air tanks on their backs, and fall backwards out of the boat?" Murphy thinks for a minute then says, "That's easy. It's 'cos if they fell forwards, they'd still be in the friggin boat!"

Loop

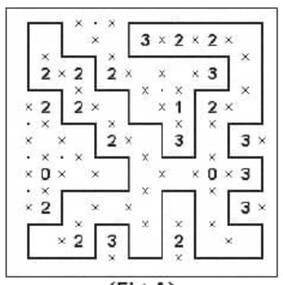
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

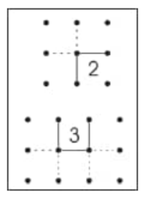
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

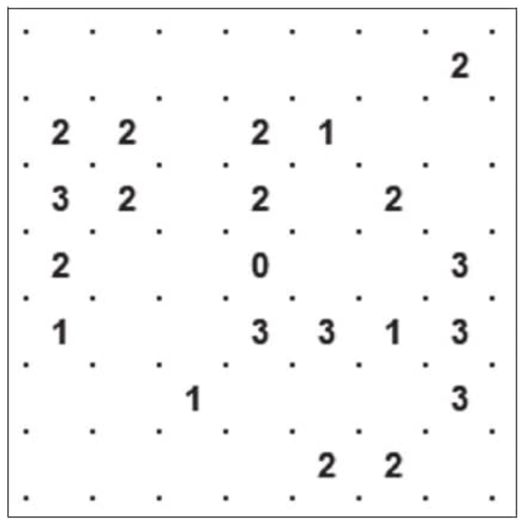
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



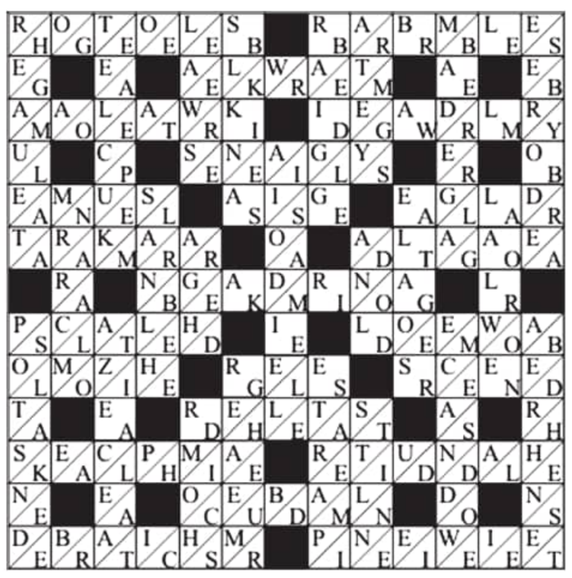
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



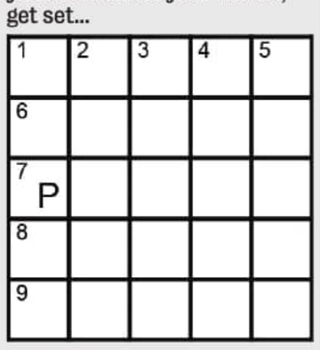
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Stalk; 6 Oiler;
7 Panne; 8 Ion in;
9 Cants

DOWN

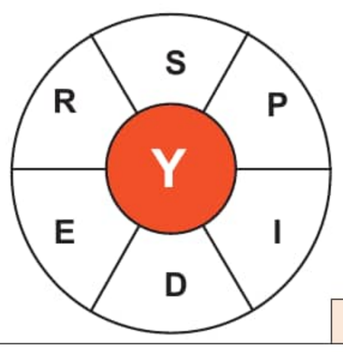
1 Optic; 2 An are;
3 In nil; 4 Sen OK;
5 St LAN

Mensapuzzle

Following a logical pattern, complete this puzzle.

1	5	7	13
15	5	4	6
3	8	2	13
12	5	2	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; **05** Good; **06** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1	9	2		6			8
								2
				9	1		3	
		1					7	3
8		2		4		5		9
6	3					2		
	6		4	3				
9								
4			5		2	3	9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

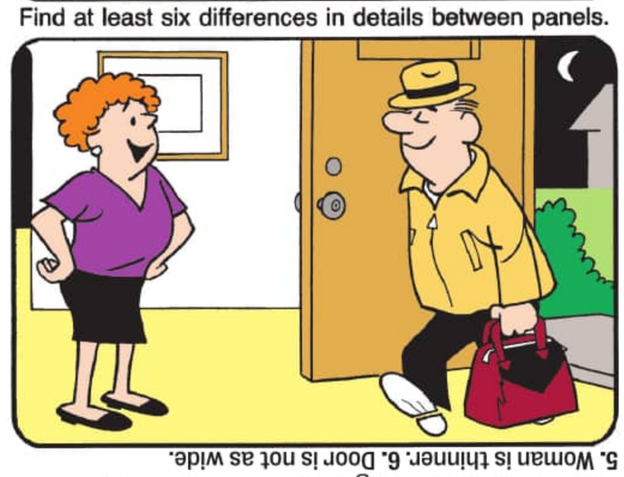
Easy = 9
4 4 7 8

Medium = 3
1 3 3 4

Hard = 37
3 5 5 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



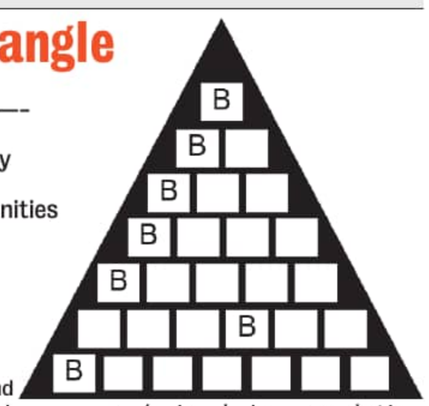
Differences: 1. Bag is larger. 2. Window in door is different. 3. Woman's leg is moved. 4. Bush is taller. 5. Woman is thinner. 6. Door is not as wide.

Riddler

Two guards were on duty outside a barracks. One faced up the road to watch for anyone approaching from the North. The other looked down the road to see if anyone approached from the South. Suddenly one of them said to the other, "Why are you smiling?" How did he know his companion was smiling?

Alpha triangle

1 Type of vitamin
2 To ——or not to —-
3 Put money on
4 Most satisfactory
5 Uses ones teeth
6 Primitive communities
7 Burn bubble



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

THE JEEP HAS GONE NERTS! HE IS ACTIN' CRAZY!
HM?
HE LOVES SWEE'PEA... HE MUST BE CONFUSED BY SO MANY OF THEM!
YEAH! I BET HE IS AS WORRIED AS WE IS ABOUT FINDIN' THE REAL SWEE'PEA!
GERF!
YOU JUST HAVE TO FIND A GERF!
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popeye.com
2-21

Bizarrotrip

BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 8.13.25
THE END IS A BIT NEARER THAN IT WAS YESTERDAY
Dist. by King Features
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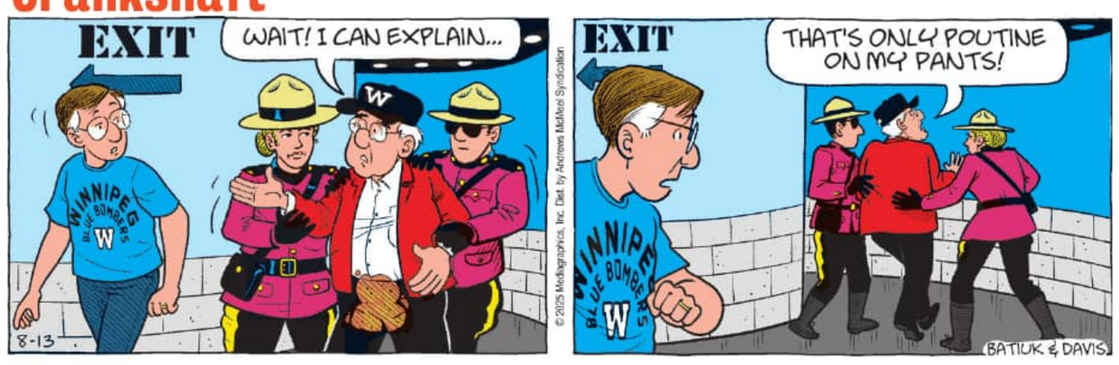
CAUTIOUSLY PESSIMISTIC

Diamond Lil

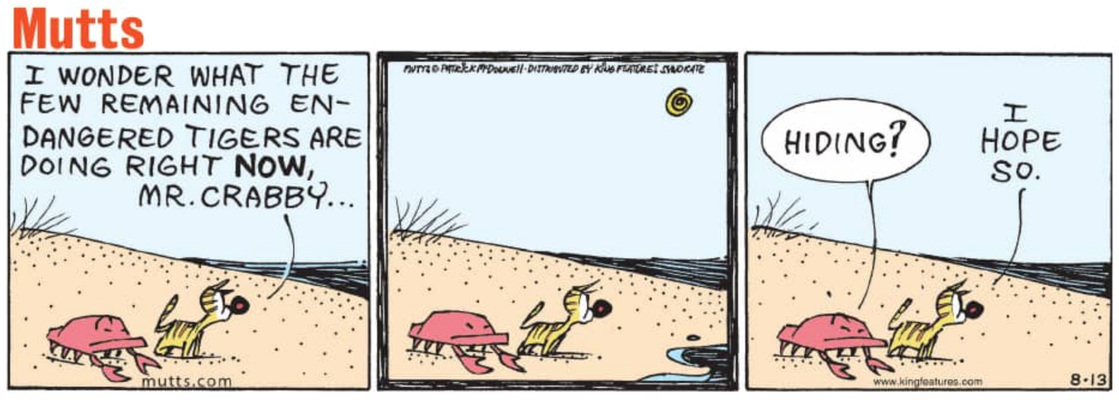
Hart of the city

ALL MY FRIENDS ARE JUST MY PARENTS' FRIENDS' KIDS.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT MY LOVE OF THEATER OR HISTORICAL FRAUDS AND SCAMS.
8/13
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
YOU AND CHARLOTTE WOULD ACTUALLY GET ALONG GREAT.

Crankshaft

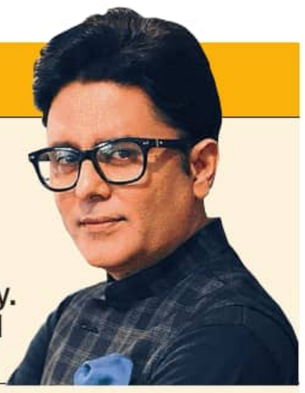


Mutts


I WONDER WHAT THE FEW REMAINING EN-DANGERED TIGERS ARE DOING RIGHT NOW, MR. CRABBY...
mutts.com
PATTY © PATRICK MCDONNELL - DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
HIDING?
I HOPE SO.
www.kingfeatures.com
8-13

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Finances see strong growth through successful partnerships and collaborations with others. Your career truly thrives when you focus on large-scale, powerful, and visionary projects. Love brings a profound connection to someone who fully shares your life philosophy. Family relationships deepen significantly through shared intellectual and spiritual pursuits.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Focus on investments and expansion with clarity. Manage finances wisely, avoid debts, and stay humble. Maintain healthy relationships, follow plans diligently, and control spending.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Opportunities bring growth and financial stability. Act swiftly, think logically, and maintain confidence. Income flows from multiple sources; nurture networks and manage responsibilities effciently.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Success unfolds smoothly with teamwork and positivity. Support from colleagues boosts momentum, and students excel. Manage diverse projects confidently, and communicate clearly.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Growth and fortune expand through effort and wisdom. Strengthen professional connections, embrace learning, and seek spiritual clarity. Opportunities for travel, creativity, and progress arise.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Plan carefully and act cooperatively. Follow family guidance, stay patient, and protect health. Avoid rushing major decisions. Balanced communication brings harmony and productive collaboration with loved ones today.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Collaborative projects thrive with discipline and teamwork. Complete tasks promptly and maintain professionalism. Property dealings succeed as effciency increases.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Consistency brings improvement and recognition. Stay alert and disciplined. Manage finances responsibly, avoid unnecessary risks, and remain professional. Diligent efforts yield rewards.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Progress strengthens as plans align. Confidence and economic energy rise. Friends and elders support creative pursuits. Travel inspires productivity, and education improves through steady focus and determination.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Leadership opportunities expand with strong management skills. Family harmony deepens, and material comfort increases. Career success grows through enthusiasm, balance, and emotional control.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Positive energy enhances ambition and teamwork. Communication deepens connections and progress accelerates. Travel for work brings insights. Embrace collaboration, and pursue innovation.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Wealth and comfort increase through discipline and smart planning. Savings and family harmony strengthen. Communication with influential people improves prospects. Health and tradition remain priorities, bringing fulfilment and steady success.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You honour commitments and focus on creativity. Strong finances and communication boost confidence. Collaboration thrives, artistic skills blossom, and your dedication earns trust, recognition, and joyful success.

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= √(11×4+25+100)/(1/13)^-1
= √(44+25+100)/13
= √169/13 = 13/13 = 1

QUOTE UNCODE
No, no, you're not thinking; you're just being logical.

RIDDLER
They were facing each other. As to why his companion was smiling, the world may never know.

FAST FIVE

T	A	L	K	S
O	R	I	E	L
P	E	N	N	A
I	N	I	O	N
C	A	N	S	T

STRIKE OUT

H	O	T	E	L	S		B	A	B	B	L	E		
E	M	U	S		S	S	E		A	G	A	R		
L	C		S	N	A	G	S		E		O			
M	A	L	A	W	I		D	E	A	D	L	Y		
E		A		A	K	R	A	M		A		E		
D	R	A	C	H	M		P	E	E	W	I	T		

QUICK

D	A	D	S		S	T	O	O	O	O	U	T		
N			E		T		G		R			S		
T			L		H		O		E			D		
S	H	E	R	A		S	C	O	O	P	E	D		
		I		G				V				A		
T	R	Y	I	N	G		A	L	T	E	R	S		
U			A		N			A		T				
O	B	L	I	G	E	D		S	T	A	I	D		
R		A		T		O			V		E			
A	M	Y	L		A	B	D	U	C	E	N	S		
E		O		R		O		L			A			
W	A	R	P	A	I	N	T		B	E	E	R		

BULL'S EYE
dyer, espy, prey, pyre, SPIDERY, spry

MENSA PUZZLE
5. Working in rows, the first three numbers add up to the right hand number. In the next line, the three numbers to the right add up to the left hand number, etc.

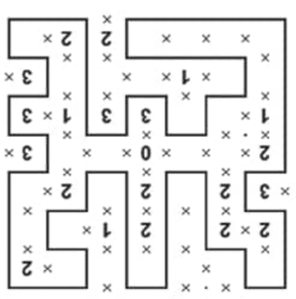
SUDOKU

3	1	9	2	5	6	7	4	8
7	5	6	3	8	4	9	1	2
2	4	8	7	9	1	6	3	5
5	9	1	6	2	8	4	7	3
8	7	2	1	4	3	5	6	9
6	3	4	9	7	5	2	8	1
1	6	5	4	3	9	8	2	7
9	2	3	8	6	7	1	5	4
4	8	7	5	1	2	3	9	6

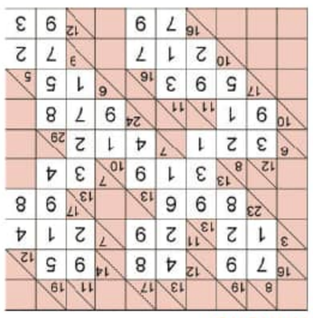
ALPHA TRIANGLE
B, Be, Bet, Best, Bites, Tribes, Blister.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 8 − 7 + 4 = 9
Medium
4 − 3 − 1 + 3 = 3
Hard
5 x 9 − 3 − 5 = 37

LOOP



KAKURO



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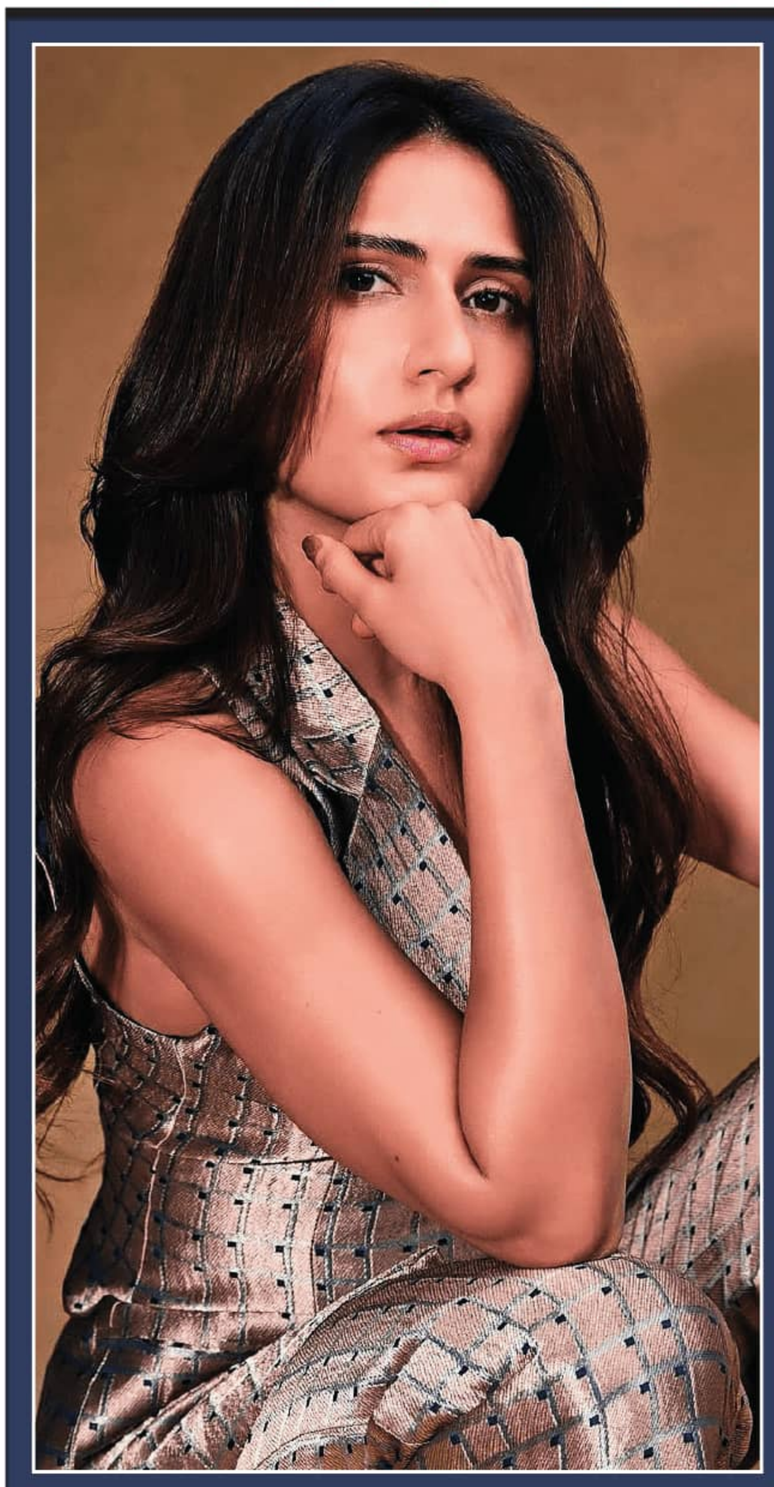


Mane issue

Fatima reveals she had no qualms about cutting her hair short for film

Unlike many women who cherish their long tresses, Fatima Sana Shaikh had no qualms about cutting hers short for Aamir Khan's 'Dangal'. Recalling the transformation, the actress said that she was informed early on about the haircut requirement and readily agreed since she had already been wanting to experiment with short hair for a while. "My hair was quite long before Dangal, but I really wanted to try a shorter look at least once," she shared with a smile.

During her appearance on Bharti Singh and Haarsh Limbachiyaa's YouTube podcast, Fatima reflected on her experience, saying, "I loved it. So, it was a win-win situation for me. I was getting paid, I was getting a film, and I was getting short hair, too." She went on to describe how her mindset changed after the haircut. "As a girl, you use your hair as part of your shringaar (beauty); you open and flaunt it. But if there is none, you can't do that," she remarked, expressing how the transformation felt both liberating and challenging. On the work front, Fatima Sana Shaikh will next be seen in Vibhu Puri's romantic drama 'Gustaakh Ishq'. The film is set against the backdrop of Old Delhi and the fading kothi of Punjab, telling a story of passion and silent desire. It stars Fatima alongside Vijay Varma, Naseeruddin Shah, and Sharib Hashmi.

—ETimes

Allu Arjun pens note for his li'l princess

As his daughter Arha turned nine on Friday, Telugu superstar Allu Arjun penned a heart-melting note for his 'little princess'.

Arjun took to Instagram, where he shared a picture posing with his daughter Arha. In the image, the father-daughter duo are seen dressed in Indian wear and smiling as they looked at each other.

"Happy birthday to my little princess #AlluArha," he wrote. It was in 2011, when Arjun married his wife Sneha Reddy in Hyderabad. They welcomed their son Ayaan in 2014 and daughter Arha in 2016. Allu Arha made her debut in the film Shaakuntalam in the role of Prince Bharata.

Arjun was last seen in Pushpa 2: The Rule, an action drama film written and directed by Sukumar. A sequel to Pushpa: The Rise, it is the second installment in the Pushpa film series.

The film stars Allu Arjun in the titular role, alongside Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil, Jagapathi Babu, Sunil and Rao Ramesh.

— IANS

Ariana catches covid amid film promotions

Amid the active promotions of 'Wicked: For Good', lead actor and singer Ariana Grande has tested positive for Covid.

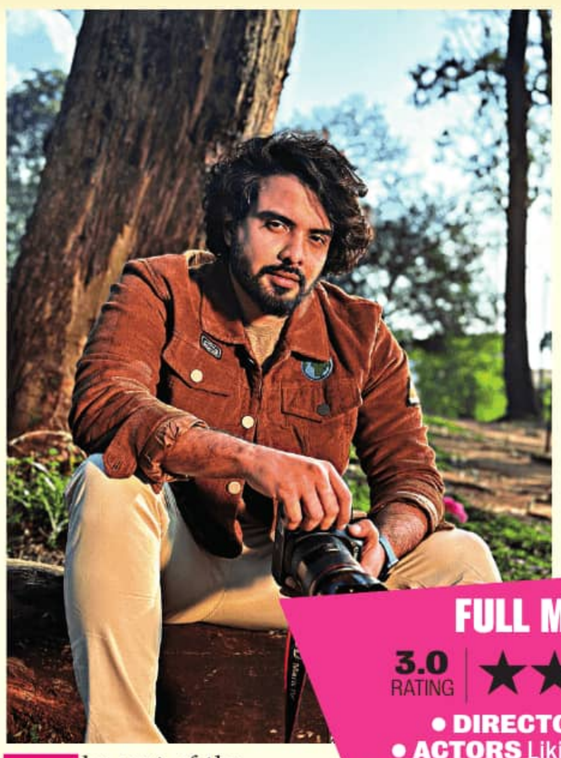
Taking to her Instagram story, Ariana shared a picture of herself from her appearance on 'The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon' along with a message confirming her positive Covid diagnosis. "Moments before Covid," she wrote. The news came just a few days after the singer was seen skipping out on the interviews during the New York premiere of her film. Her 'Wicked' co-star Cynthia Erivo also shared being unwell and having lost her voice.

Meanwhile, Ariana, due to her diagnosis, has pulled out of a taped appearance on 'The Kelly Clarkson Show' and is set to miss the Q&A discussions in the coming days, per Variety.

Both Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo tested positive for Covid at separate times during the shooting of the first 'Wicked' film.

—ANI

Wholesome entertainment



FULL MEALS
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** N Vinayaka
- **ACTORS** Likith Shetty, Kushee Ravi, Thejaswini Sharma, Rangayana Raghu, Vijay Chendoor, Suraj Lokre
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 133 minutes

The cast of the movie and the title have something in common. Director-cum-writer N Vinayaka manages to serve Full Meals to the audiences like a full meal served with a variety of curries, salads, pickles. All the actors have acted well, like how a variety of food items at a good restaurant can ensure overall satisfaction. Let it be the hero, heroines, sidekick or character artistes, all of them justify their selection for this movie. Sujay Shastry, Ramesh Pandit, Kote Prabhakar and Honnavalli Krishna appear in one or two scenes but their presence adds value.

The movie begins with Lucky (Likith Shetty), a wedding photographer, who is struggling to make ends meet. He is dreaming of getting an order for a pre-wedding shoot. In reality, Lucky depends on his uncle Pulakeshi (Rangayana Raghu), a seeds and fertilizer agent. He gets a chance to work for a pre wedding shoot of Pooja aka Bangari (Kushee Ravi) and Kiran (Suraj Lokre), an NRI. His friend and competitor Priya (Thejaswini Sharma), a make-up artist who happens to be Pooja's friend, joins him. During the photo-shoot, Pooja tries to come close to Lucky but he tries to maintain a safe distance.You have to watch the movie to know why Pooja falls in love with Lucky.

Likith has acted well. He looks stylish with a beard and long hair. His dialogue delivery and gestures are good. As a lover who wishes for a bright future for his sweetheart, he is convincing. Kushee Ravi, as a hapless girl torn between her lover and family prestige, has acted well. Veteran character actor Rangayana Raghu, as a hapless husband and kind uncle who wants to look after his nephew, is good. Chandrakala Mohan, as a virago, has acted well. Thejaswini Sharma has also acted well while Rajesh Nataranga, Ravishankar Gowda, and Suraj Lokri provided good support.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Unconventional romance

CONGRATULATIONS BROTHER
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Prathap Gandharva
- **ACTORS** Rakshith Nag, Sanjana Doss, Anusha A, Shashikumar, Raghu Ramanakoppa, and Chethan Durga
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 135 minutes

Director Prathap Gandharva, under the guidance of director Hari Santosh, succeeds in proving his directorial skills with his maiden movie. Director-cum-writer Hari Santosh and Rakshith Nag, who play the lead, wrote the script for this movie that revolves around one man and two women. It is not a love triangle, but an unconventional romance that has all ingredients to keep audiences glued to the screen. Director Hari Santosh, who worked as a creative head for this movie, has once again proved his mettle in writing scripts for romantic movies.

The movie begins with Rakshith (Rakshith Nag), an assistant manager at a private firm, attending the marriage of his friend's ex-lover and creating a ruckus at the marriage hall. The next scene is Rakshith meeting Siri (Anusha A), who joins the same company where he is working. Smitten by Siri's beauty, he falls in love with her. However, Siri says that she and her friend Tanu (Sanjana Doss) want to marry the same person to continue their friendship and also live in the same house. Tanu asks Rakshith to stay with them. You have to watch the movie to know whether or not Rakshith agrees to stay with Tanu and Siri and what happens to him.

Rakshith Nag makes debut as a hero with this movie but he pulls off this role like an experienced actor. His dialogue delivery, gestures and body language are good. Anusha A, as a soft spoken girl, is convincing. Sanjana Doss walks away with all honours with her sterling performance. Veteran actor Shashikumar, who plays the hero's father, appears in a few scenes. Raghu Ramanakoppa plays a different role in this movie. His dialogues are quite different. Chethan Durga, who played a heartsick man, tickles the audiences' funny bone.

The movie is worth a watch, especially for youngsters.

—Y Maheswara Reddy